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THURSDAY, MAY 14TH, 2015

Mayor's charity night is a great success. Page 4

READ THE GEM TOTALLY FREE EVERY WEEK ONLINE!
SIMPLY FOLLOW THE LINK MARKED 'THIS WEEK' FROM OUR WEBSITE

This year's general election analysis. Page 16

Feeding frenzy
The Cowbridge Food Festival is almost here!

EXCITEMENT is building in the Vale ahead of the Bank Holiday weekend, when the Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival makes its debut in May (24-25).

The Vale market town joined the Welsh food festival calendar 11 years ago – and the event rapidly became a huge success, despite being hit once or twice by grim October weather.

However, last year the organisers decided to give October a miss, and transfer instead to warmer climes in May.

Now, Cowbridge is gearing up for two days of gourmet delight at the food festival, while local hostelries will be stretching their beer festival over all four days of the bank holiday.

To satisfy the *Masterchef* viewer, there will be demonstrations from top chefs, while traders from around Wales and further afield will be offering a vast range of culinary delicacies in the main festival marquee.

This year, an even wider range of family-friendly attractions has been arranged to occupy children, so mum and dad can have a good look around!

• *See special five-page feature on pages 21-25.*

Paralympian Ben visits Pendoylan

Paralympian sprinter Ben Rushgrove recently visited Pendoylan Primary pupils – and brought along his medals for company! (SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 5).

Alun Cairns is returned as MP
'SUPPORT IN BARRY WAS KEY TO ELECTION VICTORY'

by STAFF REPORTERS

IN a night of high drama at Barry Leisure Centre, Alun Cairns was re-elected the MP for the Vale of Glamorgan with an enhanced majority.

As supporters of the political parties gathered in the town for the count late last Thursday evening, the expectation was that the Conservatives and the Labour Party would fight out a neck and neck contest for victory. In the end, Alun Cairns cantered comfortably home.

As Thursday evening gave way to early Friday morning, and results filtered through from Wales and England, Conservative supporters appeared amazed by the scale of their gains.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

A Cowbridge family, whose charity supports three schools in Nepal, is waiting for news after a second earthquake struck earlier this week. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 6)

JUNIORS ARE SET TO PLAY AT ARMS PARK!

TWO Cowbridge junior rugby teams will be playing at the Cardiff Arms Park this Sunday in the Blues Cup finals.

The Cowbridge under-13s will kick off at 12.30pm against Abercynon and the under-14s will kick off at 2pm against Pontypridd.

The under-13s have not lost a game all season and have played superb running rugby, ex-Wales international, Derwyn Jones.

A spokesman for the organisers said: "Entry to the Arms Park is free and both teams would welcome the support of any local rugby fans.

"Please come along and support Cowbridge and make this a special atmosphere for these talented stars of the future."

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Readers' Letters

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

PRAISE FOR NHS STAFF

OUR Welsh NHS doctors and nurses don't always receive the recognition that they deserve. My mother has been a patient in Llandough Hospital for the past five weeks and I can't praise the staff enough for their hard work, patience and dedication.

To all the staff, whether nursing, physios, or auxiliaries, nothing has been too much trouble, and it's all done with a smile on their faces.

So, thank you to the staff on Ward E4.

Marlene Simmonds,
Llantwit Major.

'Chance wasted by the Tory candidate'

I WOULD like to thank The GEM for giving the space to the Vale's parliamentary candidates to explain why they should be elected on May 7.

It was certainly interesting to read, and six of the seven candidates took advantage of this to give the electorate the reasons why they should vote for them.

The other candidate, Alun Cairns, chose to tell us once again about the part he played in the regeneration of the fairground at Barry Island, which was nothing to do with him, but was brought about by the hard work of the cabinet member, Lis Burnett and her officers in the Vale Council.

This was a big chance wasted by Mr Cairns who should have been telling us about what he will do at Westminster for the residents of the Vale. For example, where does he stand on fracking?

He has been recorded as saying he is against fracking in the Vale of Glamorgan, but when it came to voting against fracking in the House of Commons, he did not vote.

Will he bring a better funding settlement to Wales and subsequently the Vale of Glamorgan will then benefit?

As the Deputy Minister at the Welsh Office, surely he would have plans already in place, or at least would have taken this up with the Prime Minister?

These are some of the answers people would have expected when he was given an opportunity in The GEM; not comments on areas covered by local authorities.

Gwyn John,
Llantwit First Independents.

Living with ME

"WHEN my ME was at its worst, I couldn't eat, I couldn't move, I couldn't go out. Even washing my hair was tiring."

This is what one woman living with the chronic, disabling condition Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) told us about her experience for May's ME Awareness Month.

On top of symptoms including pain, cognitive difficulties and post-exertional malaise – the body's inability to recover after expending even small amounts of energy – people with ME often face a lack of understanding about the condition from those around them.

How does it feel to live with this every day?

You can find out at www.actionforme.org.uk/get-the-facts.

Sonya Chowdhury,
Chief Executive,
Action for ME,
42 Temple Street,
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JOURNEY TO POLLING BOOTH WAS A WASTE OF TIME FOR MANY...

The millions of votes that did not count!

I WAS interested in Richard Bertin's letter to The GEM last week, headed 'Make your vote count,' in which he asserts – '*your vote counts, so use it*' – when the fact of the matter is that for around 60 per cent of voters, their journey to the polling booth is pretty much a waste of time.

If you vote Labour in Henley-on-Thames, or Tory in Liverpool Walton, you would be wise to save shoe leather and put your feet up in front of the TV... You get my drift?

If further proof positive was needed that millions of votes count for little and that our democratic system is fundamentally flawed, peruse the votes won by the various parties and consider how that is reflected in their representation at Westminster.

I have no time for the UKIP party or, indeed, that gullible part of the electorate that vote for them, but it cannot be satisfactory when that party gains 2.6 times more votes than the SNP, but ends up with one MP, while nationalists from north of the border return 56 to Westminster.

The Green Party can also feel equally aggrieved when, after polling only marginally less than the SNP it will have only one voice in the corridors of power.

How can it be that the DUP have the same number of seats (eight) as the Liberal Democrats, but polled over 2 million fewer votes.

The countless other anomalies are there to be seen.

Yes, we have a democracy of sorts, but let us not delude ourselves that the occupants of the benches at Westminster are a true democratic reflection or representation of the voices, or the will, of ALL of the people.

Chris Goacher, St Athan.

JOIN THE GEM DEBATE:

Do other readers agree or disagree that the UK's first past the post system is badly flawed?

Did the general election again highlight the long overdue need for electoral reform, perhaps with an element of proportional representation, à la the Welsh Assembly?

We would welcome your views on an issue of growing importance in a fast-changing multi-party state.

Island role of the Vale MP

COUN Lis Burnett's questioning of the role played by Alun Cairns in bringing about the return of the funfair to Barry Island shows her to be out of touch with the developments made between funfair owner Henry Danter and the landowners Hilco (GEM, April 30).

Sadly, such comments from an elected local representative contribute to the cynicism with which politicians are held.

I write as a citizen of Barry interested in the much-needed regeneration of the Island and of the town,

I have no affiliation to Mr Cairns or his political party. I am a supporter of FocusBarry, the community group and have attended meetings at which Mr Cairns has offered support for community issues.

The FocusBarry meeting held on April 15 at the Barry Island Sports and Social Club included members of Mr Danter's family, and a representative of Hilco.

It was clear from the meeting that an agreement between the parties was delicately balanced.

There was a possibility that Mr Danter would turn away.

Mr Danter's subsequent assurance, that the successsful fairground development would not have gone ahead without Mr Cairns, should be sufficient for everyone to accept.

Gareth Jones,
Barry.

No alternative to an unfair society?

IT is a curious feature of our divided society, that every citizen would agree, if asked, that those who vote Green must be good people.

They may be a little misguided, but they would not be voting Green unless they were responsible and virtuous folk.

In contrast, 30 per cent of the population apparently think that Tory politicians are selfish, avaricious, and vindictive towards to the children of the poor – which obviously then creates the social problems which Tories claim to abhor.

All this may not be true, but it has been a widespread perception in the minds of millions for the last 100 years, which the 'nasty party' chooses to ignore.

The strange part is that few people vote Green, while many vote Conservative, even though they do not respect them.

This is because they believe the nature of a successful economy demands that it is unfair – with corrupt bankers deciding the bonus on top of the salary, and youngsters paid less than the minimum wage – since that makes for a more profitable company.

These voters believe the world has to be like that because they have got used to it – the media told them that "there is no alternative."

N Westerman,
Brynna.

Charges: 'poor communication'

A FEW weeks ago, you published a letter from Clifford Parish, regarding charges for waste management services in the Vale.

Regardless of the rights and wrongs of the charges, I do think the way in which the public became informed left a great deal to be desired.

A similar comment applies to the decision to reverse the much-trumpeted policy of not changing our waste collection day, except at Christmas.

By now, I hope someone in charge at the Vale Council has taken on board the fact that very large numbers of people left their rubbish out on the 'wrong' day at Easter, and also on Monday last week.

At the very least, the information should have been relayed to us taxpayers by way of an official announcement, and given a prominent place in the local press.

Ideally, assuming the decisions had already been made, we should have had notices with our tax demands.

Whoever is responsible for the manner in which the information was disseminated does not seem up to their job.

Jim Davies,
Barry.

'The GEM fair and unbiased'

WITH reference to the letter last week headed *'GEM showed bias with right to reply'*, I can't understand what Ms Belinda Robertson is moaning about.

I have read The GEM since it became available and have always found it fair and unbiased, with the right to reply available, as it should be.

If a political party chooses to buy additional advertising space, there is nothing to stop any other party – or person – from doing the same.

I'm sure that The GEM would welcome the extra revenue.

Bob Clarke,
Boverton

'Close the road for memorial services'

MY son is a member of 11th Barry Sea Scouts and attends all of the memorial services at the Cenotaph in Barry to remember those who sadly fell during World Wars One and Two.

These services are a credit to Barry and I believe it is very important that our future generation never forget the sacrifices by all those involved.

My only problem is, why can't the section of Gladstone Road near the Memorial Hall be closed during such events? It is very difficult to hear the services with cars frequently passing.

The road would only have to be closed for a maximum of an hour and traffic could quite easily use another route during this time, with minimal disruption.

Apart from the Memorial Hall itself, there is nothing on that stretch of road that would require constant access.

Gareth Davies,
Barry.

Homes plan for old school site

THE Vale planning committee is due to discuss proposals to build on the former Ysgol Maes Dyfan site today (Thursday, May 14).

The latest application by Persimmon Homes is for 47 dwellings, car parking and associated works under phase 1. It proposes 32 dwellings and 15 affordable dwellings, comprising a mix of two and three bedrooms.

Sadly, I will not be able to attend this meeting but I have asked for this matter to be deferred for a site meeting, so that the committee can physically see the scale of the works that is to be carried out, as well as the impact.

Coun Richard Bertin,
Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 21)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
14 Thur	03.28	8.6	16.06	8.8
15 Fri	04.33	9.1	17.07	9.2
16 Sat	05.33	9.5	18.02	9.6
17 Sun	06.25	9.9	18.49	10.0
18 Mon	07.14	10.1	19.36	10.1
19 Tues	07.59	10.1	20.18	10.1
20 Wed	08.42	9.9	20.59	9.9
21 Thur	09.23	9.8	21.42	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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Young Jack's dream now a reality as he rides on specially adapted trike at last

Jack is thrilled with his specially adapted trike which will give him a new sense of freedom.

by GEM REPORTER

ONE of the most exciting moments for any young child is when they get their first trike – but for one little Llantwit boy, who has serious mobility problems, it meant so much more.

Jack Vincent, aged three, has a form of 'dystonic cerebral palsy', resulting in multiple disabilities including severe mobility problems. He needed a very expensive, adapted trike.

Naturally, mum Debra and dad Mark, were anxious that Jack shouldn't miss out – and thanks to the generosity of fundraisers at the Old White Hart and local people, Jack's wish has been fulfilled.

Elenid Carlig of the Old White Hart, which has held regular raffles, said: "Everyone has been truly amazing in their response to Jack. People's generosity has been overwhelming and humbling.

"Thanks for raffle prizes go to Cardiff Aviation Training Ltd, Horizon Aircraft, and Ruth Jones of Tidy Productions. Dafydd Hewitt has donated a signed Blues' shirt which will be raffled on May 28.

"Through our weekly Thursday quiz we managed to raise an amazing £400.

"Alan Young donated a classic rocking horse which raised an additional £100 which will go towards a special chair for Jack.

"There were other sizeable donations – £500 from Sue Evans of the Ed Evans Foundation; £500 from Liz and Byron Evans of the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions; £500 from local resident Graham Richards, and £100 from an anonymous gentleman who popped into the pub.

"We also want to thank The GEM for publicising the story."

Debra and Mark said: "We have been overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and extremely generous donations. It's incredible. We can't thank everyone enough.

"We have enough left over to also buy Jack specialist seating called the P-Pod.

"This will enable him to feel more comfortable when not in his therapy chair, and will enable him to interact more with us as a family."

Local Daffodil Week raises total of £3,500

MARY ROBERTS, who has organised the street collection for Marie Curie for many years, was delighted that Daffodil Week, raising funds from shops and street collections, hit a record, exceeding £3,500.

The photo shows Mary in the centre being congratulated by the Marie Curie fundraising team at Holme Tower in Penarth.

The next event for the Cowbridge fundraising group will be a garden party, canapes and wine, in the Physic Garden, Cowbridge, on Friday, May 15 from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

Tickets are £15 per head from John Roberts, East House, Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7DG.

John Roberts, Chairman, Cowbridge Fundraising Group.

Merger bridges the gap between local Cowbridge-Pontfaen Probus memberships

EARLIER this year, the former Cowbridge and Pontfaen Probus Clubs agreed to merge forming the new Cowbridge Pontfaen Probus Club, with Derek Day as president.

We are still waiting to hear from a few members of the two former clubs, but it looks as if the new club will have an initial membership of about 50 – quite a healthy number.

The speaker in May, our third meeting, was Stephen Jones whose talk 'Web of Iron' was about the development of suspension bridges.

The first hanging bridges were originally found in mountainous regions, like South America and Tibet, but came into more general use around the world.

They were fine, if scary, for foot passengers and pack animals, but not for heavier traffic and, during the early 19th century, the iron chain suspension bridge was developed, where the deck was rigid enough for wagons and carriages.

Suspension bridges now became common, including Thomas Telford's famous Menai Bridge and the Clifton Suspension Bridge, based on a design by Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Mr Jones stressed a local connection via Captain Brown who founded the Brown Lennox in Pontypridd. Captain Brown was involved in the design of bridges, while the company supplied much of the ironwork. Altogether a most interesting talk very well illustrated by excellent pictures.

The new club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge and we have a very interesting programme of talks lined up (except June when I have to fill in).

New members are always welcome and if you think you would like to join a club which allows you to meet people from a general professional and business background you would be most welcome to call me on 01446 710669.

GAVIN DAVIES

Poppy blooms in baby contest!

TWENTY proud mums entered their babies in the Lions' baby competition at Cowbridge May Fair.

Jane Hutt had the difficult task of judge, and after careful deliberation, chose Poppy – pictured with her mum and the Vale AM, who presented a prize generously donated by Daisy and Jack of High Street, Cowbridge.

Adventurer Maria inspires business club

WORLD record holder adventurer Maria Leijerstam was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Cowbridge Business Club recently.

She spoke about her journey from successful corporate businesswoman to one of the world's leading adventure athletes.

Vale-based Maria holds the world record for being the first person to cycle to the South Pole, beating her fellow competitors by several weeks. She is also the director of Multisport Wales.

Founder of the Cowbridge Business Club, Wesley Skene, said: "It was fantastic to hear from somebody who is not only trailblazing as an athlete but able to combine this with running their own business and one that is also local.

"Maria's talk has given the group tremendous motivation and confidence for their own future endeavours."

The Cowbridge Business Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 6pm in the Bear Hotel. To find out more, log on to www.cowbridgebusinesslcub.co.uk.

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Mayor's charity evening tells tales of trials and tribulations at terrible Torquay hotel

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

THE Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp, held the final charity event of his year in office recently, hosting a local theatre group's production of a Fawlty Towers episode.

Coun Knapp said: "It was a very successful event, and has so far raised over £2,000, with more still coming in.

"I would like to thank Mr Moose productions, who are based in Peterston-super-Ely for a great show. They did the episode with the deaf lady who refuses to switch on her hearing aid!"

He added that this was not a production where the actors served the evening meal. The cast did the acting, and staff at the Bear Hotel ensured that everyone received their meal on time!

Basil listens, with Manuel in the background.

Two cast members.

Moment of truth for candidates

The Vale parliamentary candidates line up to hear the results.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

When the Vale's result was announced at 5.30am on Friday morning, Alun Cairns had polled 23,607 to Chris Elmore's 16,727, a swing from Labour to the Tories of 2.28 per cent.

DOORSTEP

Alun Cairns told The GEM: "The support I have received in Barry is particularly pleasing, and my plan to build on the regeneration of Barry Island will continue.

"We saw a fantastic result in the rest of the Vale, and the wider results in Wales were terrific.

"I had always felt that the response during campaign had been better than the polls suggested – I can say that the response on the doorstep was genuinely excellent."

Chris Elmore, a Vale Council cabinet member, said: "I'd like to sincerely thank all those who voted for me on Thursday, I've been humbled by the amount of messages and calls of support from Vale residents since the result.

"I enjoyed the campaign enormously, speaking to thousands of residents across the Vale over the last two years.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the Labour-led council's educations plans, including delivering the Llantwit Learning Community, a new school for Oak Field Primary in Barry, and investing in improved facilities for schools such as Llangan, Llanfair, Colcot and Romilly."

He said he would also be working with the community as consultation begins on secondary education in Barry."

SURGE

Kevin Mahoney of UKIP came third with a substantial surge from 1,529 votes in 2010 to 5,489 this time.

He said he he had been delighted with the positive response he had received, and was pleased candidates had fought "an incredibly clean campaign".

He added: "We can take this vote through to the Welsh Assembly elections."

Ian Johnson of Plaid saw a modest increase in his vote from 2,667 in 2010 to 2,869. He pointed out that it was the greatest number of votes the party had achieved ever in the Vale – exceeding Chris Franks' total of 2,867 in 2001.

Coun Johnson said: "I want to congratulate all the candidates on fighting a long and arduous campaign, and thank all the people who voted and showed the importance of democracy."

The turnout of 51,293 people was 71.1 per cent, an increase from 2010's 69.3 per cent.

The Liberal Democrat vote collapsed from 7,403 in 2010 to 1,309 this time – a loss of 6,094 votes.

Alun Cairns – Welsh Conservative Party – 23,607;

Chris Elmore – Welsh Labour – 16,727;

Kevin Phillip Mahoney – UKIP – 5,489;

Ian James Johnson – Plaid Cymru – 2,869;

David Morgan – Welsh Liberal Democrats – 1,309;

Alan Herbert Armstrong – The Green Party – 1,054;

Steve Reed – Cannabis is Safer Than Alcohol – 238.

The bells ring out for Princess Charlotte

ON May 5 at St Hilary Church, Cowbridge parish bell-ringers (above) welcomed the birth of Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana with a tribute ring.

Paralympian put pupils through their paces!

Ben with a pupil volunteer (Nia) during the assembly.

PARALYMPIAN sprinter Ben Rushgrove put children at Pendoylan CIW Primary School through their paces when he recently led them through an intensive fitness circuit.

Rushgrove, who has cerebral palsy, won a silver medal in the T36 100m sprint at the Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008 and a bronze in the 200m at the 2012 Summer Paralympics.

The Bath-based athlete visited the school as part of the Sports for Schools charity project, with pupils traising money through sponsorship forms before taking part.

Headteacher Mrs Lyn Murray said: "The children really enjoyed the circuits and were in awe of Ben's achievements and medals. We were honoured to have him visit and he'll leave us inspired by his wonderful assembly and his motto to 'be the best you can be'.

"We're grateful also for his help in raising money for new sports equipment and wish him luck for the upcoming Paralympic World Championships. We'll all be supporting him."

School governor recognised at Citizen Awards

ST ILLTYD Primary School has announced that one of its governors was runner-up in the recent Llantwit Major Citizen of the Year awards at Llantonian Hall.

A school spokesman said: "Mrs Kath Morgan has been associated with the school for many years as a member of staff, a Governor and a volunteer.

"Mrs Morgan has also been involved with a number of societies and charities in Llantwit.

"Mrs Morgan's experience and love of learning are of real benefit to the school and we congratulate her on her well-deserved award."

CHARITY TRUSTEES

EAST Vale Community Transport (EVCT), a locally-based charity run by volunteers to combat isolation in the community, is appealing for three trustees.

For more details about the work of EVCT, visit website www.evct.org.uk, or contact 029 2070 5138; email: enquiries@evct.org.uk.

LATEST NEWS FROM YSGOL LLANHARI

Welsh cap for Alun!

Year-1 visit the cinema.

Elan Booth, Jessica Porter and Beca Ellis.

Pupils visiting Ty Crwn.

Congratulations to year-11 pupil Alun Lawrence, who represented the Wales under-16 team in a rugby international against England at Ystrad Mynach recently.

The Welsh team lost, unfortunately, against a very strong English side but we are all very proud of Alun's success. He is the latest in a long line of pupils to win representative honours on the rugby field.

Visit to Seattle

WE are very glad to welcome back Mr Paul Greene from his visit to the Microsoft IT Academy Conference in Seattle recently.

Mr Greene was selected to attend the conference following the school's innovative work with Microsoft and it was an honour to represent RCT at this international conference.

Oxford bound

WE are delighted that year-12 pupil Gwynfor Dafydd has won a place at the prestigious UNIQ Summer School at Oxford in July to study Spanish.

Competition for these places is very tough and Gwynfor was one of the 850 pupils selected out of the 4,451 applicants this year. Congratulations Gwynfor!

Cup winners

CONGRAGTULATIO NSalso to the year-9 rugby team who are Pontypridd Schools Cup Champions, beating Ysgol Gartholwg in the final by 46-29.

Attendance prize

YEAR-1 recorded the highest attendance of last term and duly won a visit to the cinema in Nantgarw. The race is on now for the most successful class of the summer term.

Ty Crwn visit

SHORTLY after Easter, year-1 and 2 pupils visitied Tŷ Crwn to support Iolo Whelan who was drumming for 40 hours as a way of celebrating his 40th birthday but also in order to raise money for 'Water aid'.

Congratulations to him on his efforts thank you for letting us be a part of the celebrations.

Eco logo competition

MEMBERS of the eco committee have been very busy recently adjudicating entries in our competition to re-design our eco logo.

Pupils from primary classes as well as KS3 took part and the results will be announced in an assembly before half term. The standard of entries was high and the final logos underline the fact that Llanhari has many talented designers!

The secondary committee's next task will be to revamp the existing eco code and to draw up an action plan, which mirrors the plan which has been put in place by the Eco-warriors in the primary department!

Côr Cymru

THREE pupils, Elan Booth, Jessica Porter and Beca Ellis were members of Côr Heol y March choir from the Vale, who won the prestigious Côr Cymru" competition in Aberystwyth recently.

The competition which was televised live on S4C celebrates the best in Welsh choral tradition and the girls performed in the final against other choirs who had won their respective categories. Well done!

Tae Kwon Do success

MANY congratulations to Rhiannon Williams from year-13 who has just won a silver medal at the British Tae Kwon Do Council (BTC) British Championships.

We wish her well in July when she'll be flying out to Italy to compete in the World Tae Kwon Do Association (WTA) World Championships as a member of the Welsh ladies team.

Woman injured by stone thrown through window

POLICE are appealing for witnesses, after a woman was injured when a large stone was thrown through the window of a house in Llancarfan at around 9.20pm on Friday, April 24.

They said the homeowners were in at the time and entertaining a number of guests, when the stone was thrown through the front living room window of the house in Middlehill.

"The stone shattered the glass and injured a woman who was inside. She received a head injury and was conveyed to University Hospital Wales where she received treatment for her injuries," a spokeswoman said.

Officers are searching for the culprits and are asking for the public's help.

Inspector Clive Bevan explained: "We are particularly appealing for information about any suspicious activity in or around the area at the time. The house is located on the road between the B4265 and Five Mile Lane and we are keen to speak with anyone who may have seen any vehicles heading back towards Five Mile Lane between 9.20pm and 9.30pm on Friday, April 24."

• ***Contact the police on 101, quoting the reference number 1500143800; or phone Crimestoppers FREE and anonymously on 0800 555 111.***

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Confusion and despair as second big earthquake damages Nepal villages

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THIS week, The GEM intended to print a follow-up to last week's story about the Cowbridge-based charity run by David Allen and his daughter Samantha Tamang.

Readers may recall that their charity had built three schools in isolated Nepalese villages and, at the time of writing last week, they were waiting anxiously for news – of the condition of the schools, and also of friends living in the villages and in Kathmandu.

However, any good news coming out of the area was placed in limbo on Monday, when another large earthquake, 7.3 on the Richter scale, hit Nepal again.

Speaking last Friday – before the second earthquake struck – Samantha told The GEM that all three schools were reported to be still standing, but that cracks had appeared in at least one, and it was closed until building safety experts could look at it.

However, all that changed when the second earthquake struck, and it appears that the epicentre for this one is closer to the villages where the charity operates than was the first.

Samantha said: "My husband Raju was actually talking to his brother on the phone, when the second quake happened.

"The ground rose a couple of feet and then the phone went dead. Fortunately, he was able to get back in touch soon after and tell Raju that his family were safe, but it sounds as if the villages may have been badly damaged."

Communications were in a dreadful state after the first quake, so the situation now is chaotic.

Buildings that were badly damaged by the first quake are very likely to have collapsed now.

Samantha said: "One thing we know for certain is that the epicentre was closer this time. We have been told that none of the children and villagers had been harmed, but it is hard to be sure."

The GEM hopes to have more news about the local schools, which are in the villages of Goredhunga and Upallmudi, next week.

If anyone wants to help, please visitwww.aidfornepalichildren.org.uk

ABOVE:
Samantha and Raju Tamang with their daughter Rosalie.

Children in one of the charity's schools.

ABOVE: Goredhunga School before the earthquake.
BELOW: There was extensive damage to the village of Dolakha.

VE Day is remembered in Cowbridge

*The scene outside the town hall. Pictures by **MIKE WILCOCK.***

THE town of Cowbridge offered its own act of Remembrance last Friday on VE Day, with a simple and sombre wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph outside the town hall.

A crowd of town councillors and members of the public gathered to remember the 70th anniversary of the day when World War 2 ended in Europe.

BELOW (left to right): Kevin Davies MBE, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan; Coun Hunter Jarvie; Coun Peter Knapp, Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian; Rev Norman Williams of Holy Cross Church; and Coun Dave Morris.

Police investigate after car damaged

A 51-year-old woman has been arrested after a car was damaged in Penllyn, Cowbridge.

The incident is alleged to have taken place at around 9.55pm on Thursday, May 7.

A police spokeswoman said: "Officers attended The Red Fox Inn and found one car had been damaged. A woman is on police bail pending further enquiries."

Rory and Rhydian pass their black belt test

Congratulations are due to new black belts Rhydian Williams and Rory Chapman of the Cowbridge Tae Kwon Do School.

The two boys recently undertook a very challenging black belt grading test to achieve the rank of 1st Dan black belt.

The national grading took place on April 26 at the TAGB headquarters in Bristol.

Students were put through their paces to demonstrate their theory of Tae Kwon Do and technical skills, as well as their pattern knowledge, application of self-defense and sparring abilities.

The students were examined by a panel of masters and senior instructors in what proved to be a technically and physically demanding grading.

Rhydian and Rory represented their school and instructor Neil Gimbel in the very best light, and have now become role models and inspiration for other students at the club by joining the black belts ranks!

The many years of dedication, hard work and consistent training have finally paid off! Well done boys for this great achievment!

Tae Kwon Do classes are run at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Mondays and Thursdays 4pm-6.30pm for ages four years and up.

For more information, contact Neil Gimbel on 07855 487404; email neiltkdfr@yahoo.co.uk or visit the website: neilgimbeltkd.com **VW**

WARD COUNCILLORS' STATEMENT:

'Darren Farm plan is *not* sustainable'

WE object to the planning application for the construction of a link road connecting Cowbridge by-pass with Llantwit Major, as this outline application is associated with a mixed use residential development of approximately 390 houses.

A public inquiry was held in May/June 2003 to hear Bellway Homes' appeal against refusal to grant permission for a similar link road on this site, with the key difference that this was for 145 houses – ie 245 less than the current proposal. The Vale Council vigorously defended its position not to grant planning permission and engaged Counsel, Morag Ellis who, together with Rob Thomas, then head of planning and transportation, presented the council's case.

The main points made by the council were:

a) walking and cycling were not likely to be favoured by its residents because of the site and gradient in relation to the town centre;

b) even with a link road there would be a net increase in traffic through the town centre;

c) the proposals would represent an unacceptable extension of development into the countryside which would be harmful to the setting of Cowbridge and the character and appearance of the countryside.

These points, which were made against a proposal for 145 houses, are still valid. They must be magnified when considered against this much larger development of 390 homes.

There are insufficient car parking spaces in Cowbridge and this results in the town being gridlocked at times. This proposed development would exacerbate the problem, will deter people from visiting or shopping and so reduce the vitality of the area. We would refute that the proposal is sustainable, especially with poor public transport.

The cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation at the Vale council meeting on March 4, 2015 in response to a question on the LDP said that: "National policy advises that new settlements on greenfield sites are unlikely to be appropriate in Wales, and should only be proposed where such development would offer significant environmental, social and economic advantages over the further expansion or regeneration of existing settlements."

The council in 2003 considered the site and surrounding area 'predominantly open rural farmland' and there have been no developments in that area since.

We maintain that the Darren Farm (described on this application as land at North West Cowbridge) is a greenfield site and that there are no significant reasons why it should be considered as suitable for development.

The LDP Deposit Plan also describes this as a greenfield site, and on land to the north and west of Darren Close. While this proposes it for housing development, the draft plan still has to be approved by the Welsh Government.

It is unfortunate that the developers have submitted a planning application in advance of this. We can only conclude that they are concerned that the Welsh Government Planning Inspectorate may reject the proposals at the LDP stage, which would be in line with the planning inspector who presided over an inquiry in 2003 for a much smaller development.

These are the main reasons that we, as local ward members, object to the proposals and urge the members of the planning committee to support us and the local population by refusing planning permission.

GEOFFREY COX *and* HUNTER JARVIE, *members for Cowbridge ward, Vale Council.*

Ystradowen WI annual meeting

MEMBERS of Ystradowen and District WI met at the Village Hall on May 6 for their AGM, when minutes of the April meeting were approved.

The visit to the BBC studios had been very informative and members who had gone to the lunch and fashion show in the Mumbles had thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Our next outside event will be the garden party at Margam.

Members expressed a wish to hire a mini bus. We are low on numbers for our August outing to Hampton House in Herefordshire and it was agreed to hire a smaller coach.

On Wednesday, June 3, our speaker will be Lynne Tippet. Her subject is 'The History of Magistracy'. The monthly walk will take place on May 20 and coffee morning in the vestry on May 27.

Glenda Bell presented the 2015 WI resolution to the meeting. It is proposed to remove the differences between nursing care and personal care: nursing care is provided by the NHS and personal care is provided by local authorities. The level of care differs across the country.

Members found the wording of the resolution difficult to comprehend: concern was also expressed that this would not apply to Wales, as the responsibility for personal care lies with the Welsh Assembly.

Two members spoke of problems which they had experienced when their husbands had been terminally ill.

Although some members were unclear about the wording of the resolution there was a unanimous vote in favour. Irena will write to the Federation regarding our concerns about nursing and personal care provided in Wales.

Pam presented the financial accounts and was congratulated. She thanked assistant treasurer Val Staddon for stepping in when necessary. Barbara gave a detailed account of activities during the year.

All members of the committee were willing to stand again, and no other members had put their names forward, so no vote was necessary. Several nominations were put forward for president. Jan accepted the nomination and agreed to stand for another year.

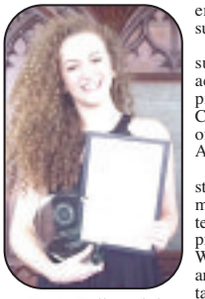
Shena gave a report of the council meeting she had attended on our behalf and Rose reported that Ystradowen had received £100 from Keep Wales Tidy.

This will be used to buy new plants for the layby.

EL

Verity-Belle heads for Rotary Young Musician final...

YEAR-13 Cowbridge School student, Verity-Belle Atkinson has a very important weekend coming up, as she is competing as a vocalist in the UK and Ireland final of the Rotary Young Musician competition.



Verity-Belle with her certificate.

The event is being held this Saturday, May 16 at Blackburn, Lancashire, and Verity-Belle will be competing against competitors from across the British Isles.

To get to this stage, she has competed and won at Rotary club, area, district and regional levels. The regional final, which was held in the imposing 140-year-old great hall of Bristol Grammar School, had a total of eight competitors, four instrumentalist and four vocalists.

Her programme consisted of three contrasting pieces: 'Widmung' by Robert Schumann, 'O Mio Babbino Caro' by Giacomo Puccini and finally 'The Girl in 14G' by Jeanine Tesori.

The last of these pieces requires a variety of singing styles and great dramatic flair, requiring narrative, operatic and jazz singing, as the singer tells the story of moving in to her new apartment in New York and the noises emanating from surrounding flats.

Verity-Belle has been supported and accompanied on the piano thus far by Cowbridge school's head of performing arts, Adrian Colborne.

She is currently studying for A-levels in music, drama and music technology and hopes to progress to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff to take a BMus in opera and vocal studies.

This is a four-year course that will include the opportunity to study abroad. She has been sponsored throughout the competition by Llantwit Major Rotary Club.

President Mary Noyes, herself a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, said she was thrilled that Verity-Belle had progressed through the competition with such success and wished her good luck in the grand final. **TC**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

New chairman

AT the annual general meeting of Llangan Community Council, held on May 5, Coun Nigel Blethyn, of Treoes, was elected chairman for the coming year.

Coun Keith Jones, St Mary Hill, was elected to serve as vice-chairman.

Euro party!

EUROVISION Party comes to Llangan on Saturday, May 23, and it promises to be 'something for everyone'; a big screen, dress as your favourite country!

There will be prizes for best adult and child costumes. Doors open 7.30pm!

Date for your diary

SATURDAY, June 13 from 2pm, Llangan-St Mary Hill Llanfest. Visitors come from various parts of the Vale, Cardiff and nearby villages. Llanfest has now become a major event, as so much of the entertainment is free.

Cat attacks

DURING the past two weeks, cat owners living in the Nant-Canna area of Treoes have become extremely concerned as there seems to be a deranged person attacking cats in the area.

One cat has died from injuries after being shot; another cat is being treated by the local vet after also being shot.

Police are investigating and it is hoped the culprit will soon be caught.

Last Night

Last night he turned and
looked at me,
And then I knew that he
was mad;
I knew though I could
hardly see
For tears that blurred
and made me sad.

I knew because his eyes
looked out
At weird things they
could not see,
And when he spoke,
without a doubt
He said the strangest
things to me.

We two in this cold
prison cell
Had shared each laugh
and every tear,
We suffered in a man-
made hell
Where happiness was
turned to fear.

We knew the wild,
fantastic flights
Of daylight's hopeful,
hopeless schemes,
And in the hollow
haunting nights
Our fevered minds were
racked by dreams.

These things we'll never
share again,
Because his poor weak
mind is free
To roam above the realm
of pain
Where my poor mind
must ever be.

The poem above is reproduced by kind permission of Jill, sister-in-law of the author Gwyn Elwyd Evans who was born in Blaengarw, near Bridgend, in 1920.

He served as a pilot in the RAF in the Second World War and was captured following a raid over Germany.

The poem is one of many from Gwyn's book, *Bombs Gone*.

IN BRIEF

Plant sale

THE annual plant sale takes place on May 24 at Llanmaes village hall from 11am to 3pm.

All plant donations gratefully accepted; please bring them along before 11am.

For more information, contact Jackie Wright on 07976 698325 or visit www.llanmaesonline.com/contactus.

Penarth spring fair

THE Children's Society's annual spring fair takes place on Saturday, May 30, in The Paget Rooms, Penarth (10am to 12 noon.

There will be the usual variety of stalls, eg cakes, plants, preserves and a raffle; admission £1, including refreshments. Children free entry and drink.

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Why CAVC students raised £1,500 for MND charity research

Charlotte Strongman, Sarah Radford, Tanya McGill and Derydd-Anne Spiller.

FOUR health and social care students from Cardiff and Vale College have raised more than £1,500 for Motor Neurone Disease research.

The final tally was more than three times their initial target of raising £500 for charity. Charlotte Strongman, Sarah Radford, Tanya McGill and Derydd-Anne Spiller persuaded local businesses in Barry to donate goods or services for a special charity evening raffle.

A band donated their time and local pub The Ship provided a free venue: "We just want to thank all of the local businesses who donated items," Charlotte said. "We sent out letters and emails and went on visits and everyone was so generous."

The students organised the charity event as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate. They chose Motor Neurone Disease, as a friend of Charlotte's family had passed away from the disease.

"We thought we were going to be out of our depth, but it was really exciting and it all came together really well," Charlotte said.

"We're extremely grateful to everybody who took part and helped."

'Housing needs data out of date'

READER'S VIEWPOINT

THE Vale Council has a final opportunity to reconsider its requirement for 10,450 new houses to be built by 2026 when it determines its proposed changes in the Deposit LDP.

This requirement was assessed on the basis of statistics produced in 2008, and they are now seven years out of date. There is a more than adequate supply of robust evidence that the realistic requirement for houses is very much lower than 10,450.

It would be ludicrous for the council to maintain a strategy based on a highly inflated requirement, thus causing irreparable damage to the environment of the Vale, particularly destroying the rural nature of some villages which have grown steadily by evolution over many centuries.

If the requirement is retained, a substantially excessive amount of land will become blighted by inclusion in allocated sites. Unnecessary planning applications will be submitted and approved, resulting in huge windfalls for the landowners.

Many of the houses will not be built by 2026, as to do so would create a large glut in the market. This cannot be in the interests of any of the residents of the Vale, other than the small number of affected landowners.

In its representation letter in 2013, the Welsh Government maintained pressure for at least 10,450 houses, even though it acknowledged the substantial downward trend in population growth in the Vale shown by statistics updated to 2011.

In a recent letter, the Welsh Government has made it abundantly clear that it "...does not direct local authorities on the scale or location of development proposals," and "...does not set a specific housing target for LDPs to achieve."

There is a more than adequate supply of robust evidence that the realistic requirement for houses in the period to 2026 is a figure very much lower than 10,450.

The determination of the number of houses required is the sole responsibility of the Vale Council, subject only to any changes made by the Inspector. It is not a figure which can or should be imposed by the Welsh Government.

The council should recommend a substantial reduction in the requirement together with other consequential changes including the deletion from the LDP of allocated sites which are no longer required.

The council has the opportunity and responsibility to avoid unnecessary and serious destruction of parts of the Vale. The council should shoulder this responsibility and not hide behind the unjustified and out-dated demand by the Welsh Government.

Tim Knowles,
St Nicholas.

A DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR VALE MP

ALUN CAIRNS, who was re-elected MP for the Vale last week, completed the 2015 London Marathon as the fastest man in Westminster with a time of 3.38 – and also raised over £5,000 for two local charities.

He finished ahead of all the other parliamentary candidates, to complete the marathon during the middle of the general election campaign. It was his fourth marathon and he has raised over £20,000 for a number of local charities since 2012.

In Barry, the PDSA and Macmillan Cancer Care will benefit from the fundraising. The PDSA provides support for pensioners and means tested pet care for families across the Vale of Glamorgan unable to use private veterinary care.

Mr Cairns said: "I was very pleased to finish the London Marathon first past the Westminster post with a time of three hours 38 minutes. It was a very busy but very enjoyable time fitting in my training with campaigning."

To sponsor Alun Cairns and support the PDSA and Macmillan Cancer Support, log onto http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AlunCairns.

CAFE BACKS JAZZ FESTIVAL

MARCO's cafe of 'Gavin and Stacey' fame is the latest Barry business to sign up in support of the Vale Jazz Festival, ***spokesman Richard Bertin reports.***

"Owner Marco Zeraschi has pledged to sponsor the event in return for bands playing at the cafe during the festival on June 19-21 and the venue is now one of 12 that will host bands during the weekend in and around Barry Island.

"All the events will be free, thanks to the kind sponsorship of local businesses. On the same weekend, Barry Island will host the Barry at War event, with the Red Arrows giving a flypast."

VETERANS SHARED THEIR MEMORIES AS...

'We'll meet again' song captured the spirit of VE Day celebrations

MEMORIES of VE Day were shared by guests of honour who gathered at Barry Island station on Saturday, May 9, at an event organised by Barry at War and Barry Tourist Railway to mark the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

The 'guests of honour' included veterans from the Second World War, their families and many people who were children at the time who remembered the celebrations and street parties.

Ernie Dawkins and Ray Clemo, veterans who are now in their 90s, told me of their experiences on VE Day and Joan Lake showed me the toy made by a German prisoner of war.

Angela Incledon entertained us with many wartime songs including 'We'll meet again' which summed up the spirit of the event. Dressed the part in her wartime dress and hairstyle, Angela helped to made the Barry Island party a memorable event in itself. She is well known as a talented Barry singer of war time songs.

She also led the singing at the wreath laying service at the Cenotaph on Sunday, May 10, organised by the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion, led by Father Ben Andrews as their Chaplain and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Colin Jones.

The entertainment at the Barry Island event also involved Barry Island Primary School children who came to the party, dressed for the period, to entertain the guests of honour with their moving Christmas song 'One Silent Night'.

This event would not have happened without the hard work of volunteers led by Glenn Booker, also supported by his mother, Cynthia Booker, with the backing of John Buxton of Barry Tourist Railway.

At the end of the event, news of the Barry at War weekend on June 20-21 was announced, with another spectacular range of events.

I was also moved by at service I attended at Llandaff Cathedral on behalf of the Welsh Government on Sunday afternoon, by the words in John Ireland's anthem 'Greater Love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'

These commemorations are important to our children, as well as our veterans and those who lost their lives whom we remember and honour.

There are many forthcoming events in the Vale calendar with a series of festivals to enjoy, which starts with the Dinas Powys Music Festival and the Vale of Glamorgan Music Festival this week.

Vale of Glamorgan Music Festival has a strong focus on the contribution of European composers, including the powerful music of Arvo Part from Estonia now in his eightieth year, and a composer from Bulgaria, Dobrinka Tabakova.

I will particularly enjoy the piano recital on Saturday, May 23, at St Illtud's Church in Llantwit Major. Robin Green, the festival's young artist in residence, will play Frederic Rzewski's 'The People United Will Never Be Defeated', one of the great cult piano works of the last 40 years based on the revolutionary Chilean song of the 1960s.

For tickets, go to: *www.valeofglamorganfestival.ticketsource.co.uk*

The music festival is linked to the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival organised by Valeways from May 21-24, with a programme of 28 walks across the weekend.

A 'Celtic Crosses and Coast Walk' will start from St Illtud's Church at 2.30pm following the piano concert on Saturday, May 23; *www.valeofglamorganfestival.org.uk*.

As if that isn't enough enjoyment over the weekend, the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival will take place on May 24-25, which I shall also be supporting.

Meanwhile, my work as Finance Minister accelerates as we move forward with new funding announcements for the next phase of Jobs Growth Wales for 18-25 year olds with EU backing, alongside support for higher education and the voluntary sector from EU funds including the prestigious Horizon 2020 Programme.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

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PARENTS RALLY TO CHILDREN'S HOSPICE WEEK APPEAL...

Ty Hafan message is: *'Make every moment count'*

PARENTS Hannah and Ian Hicks experienced mixed emotions when they found out they were expecting their second child.

Although excited by the news, they were also terrified that their unborn baby would have the same life-limiting condition as their daughter, Alice.

It was during their 20-week scan that the couple found out that little Alice had hydranencephaly. The condition means that her brain isn't fully formed and she is sadly expected to die in childhood.

Thankfully, scans revealed that their second child was healthy but it was still a stressful nine months for the Cardiff couple as they waited for their daughter, Sophia, to be born.

"I had scans every four weeks, to make sure everything was okay," said Hannah. "Even though we were told that there was a one in a million chance that Sophia would have the same condition, we still couldn't fully relax until she was born. It was such a relief when we found out she was fine."

Alice was referred to Tŷ Hafan, the hospice for children in Wales at Sully when she was a few weeks old, after she spent her first 15 days fighting for her life at the neo-natal unit at the University Hospital of Wales.

"As it became increasingly clear the doctors could do nothing more to help her, they suggested we took her for end-of-life care at Tŷ Hafan," said Ian. "Being told by our doctors that we would have to go to Tŷ Hafan felt like the end, but it turned out to be a new beginning."

Alice pulled through those early weeks and, at 20 months old, is now doing incredibly well, with specialists even discussing the possibility of her going to school in the future. Hannah said: "She is almost two and is doing so much better than anyone ever predicted. She is verbalising and tries to say mamma. It's so nice to see her improving."

The new family addition has completed the family. Hannah said: "Having two girls under two is wonderful but it can be hard work at times! They already have an amazing bond and we adore both of them."

Tŷ Hafan's support doesn't stop for the family, who recently visited the hospice for short-break care. "There are so many ways Tŷ Hafan continues to be there for our family," said Ian, "from the visits and phone calls from our family support practitioner, Hayley, to the short breaks we have at the hospice.

"They help make sure every moment we have with Alice is spent creating memories that will last forever. We know that when the time comes, and Alice reaches the end of her life, they will support us through that, too."

The family is again supporting the charity's summer Precious Moments appeal, being launched in Children's Hospice Week (May 11-17) to raise vital funds for Tŷ Hafan.

Jenna Lewis, Tŷ Hafan's Head of Individual Giving, said: "Making Every Moment Count' is the theme for this year's Children's Hospice Week. Our Precious Moments appeal highlights the importance of creating memories and the crucial role that Tŷ Hafan plays in helping families make the most of the time they have left together.

"We hope the public supports our appeal so we can help more families like Alice's in need of our support."

• *If you would like to make a donation to Tŷ Hafan's Precious Moments appeal, please visit www.tyhafan.org/precious/.*

Charity holds solidarity day

HOMELESSNESS charity, Emmaus South Wales will be holding a solidarity day on May 16, to raise funds for humanitarian relief projects overseas.

It will be one of over 20 communities across the UK holding a solidarity day, sending the full day's takings from its shops overseas to support people living in Emmaus communities in other countries.

The money will be used to fund training, agricultural assistance and water programmes for people supported by Emmaus in poorer parts of the world.

The concept of solidarity is central to the Emmaus ethos and the motivation behind its annual solidarity days. Shoppers can play their part by visiting their local Emmaus shops to buy secondhand furniture, vintage items, bric-a-brac and clothes.

Commenting on the upcoming solidarity day, Tom Clarke, Director of Emmaus South Wales said: "We are delighted to share our retail success with other Emmaus groups overseas who are less fortunate than we are in the UK.

"While life is not easy for everyone in the UK, watching the international news shows how difficult life can be for millions of people."

Join Emmaus South Wales at its shops in Bridgend, Cowbridge, Maesteg, Porthcawl and Neath on May 16. **JF**

Young Farmers open to public!

THE Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs invites the local public to a free event – its annual Rally Day on June 13.

YFC members from the seven clubs across Glamorgan go head-to-head in various competitions at a new venue, Slade Farm Organics, St Brides Major.

Showcasing the skills and talents of members aged between 10 and 26, the day sees over 20 competitions and entertainment take place – from cookery and crafts to woodwork and tractor handling.

Glamorgan YFC Rally committee chairperson, Natalie Lewis, said: "As a voluntary organisation, YFC is dependent on the support and generosity of local businesses and individuals to help hold and run events and competitions throughout the year.

"Without this vital lifeline, the opportunities and life skills that members relish would not be possible. If you are interested in getting involved, or would like to sponsor the event, please get in touch to discuss the opportunities available."

To find out more about the Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, contact county organiser Gwyneth Thomas on 07779 331839, email Glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk or visit www.glamorganyfc.co.uk

Card scheme protects the elderly and vulnerable

Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend community safety partnership teams visited Real Lives Community Group in Barry recently, to promote the Keep Safe Cymru card.

Police Sergeant Angela Bennett said "The potentially life-saving cards enable vulnerable people to get help when they become ill or feel unsafe. The 'Keep Safe' cards were originally designed for people with learning disabilities, but can be used more widely used. "Sometimes people find themselves in situations where they need help but can't communicate, or have needs that are not instantly visible. The free Keep Safe cards assist with that communication. We are ensuring that all police officers and staff are aware of the card and to ask people if they have one."

Judith Major from South Wales Police Public Service Centre (PSC), said: "The Keep Safe Cymru card is part of our commitment to supporting people who could potentially be vulnerable when they are out and about.

"The card contains important personal and medical information that could ensure vulnerable people get the help they need, when they need it.

"It's a useful card to keep in a purse or wallet, so we would encourage people to consider whether they, or someone they know, would benefit from having one."

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Dogs Trust says: 'MAY THE PAWS BE WITH YOU!' as Max finds new home!

Max has found a home.

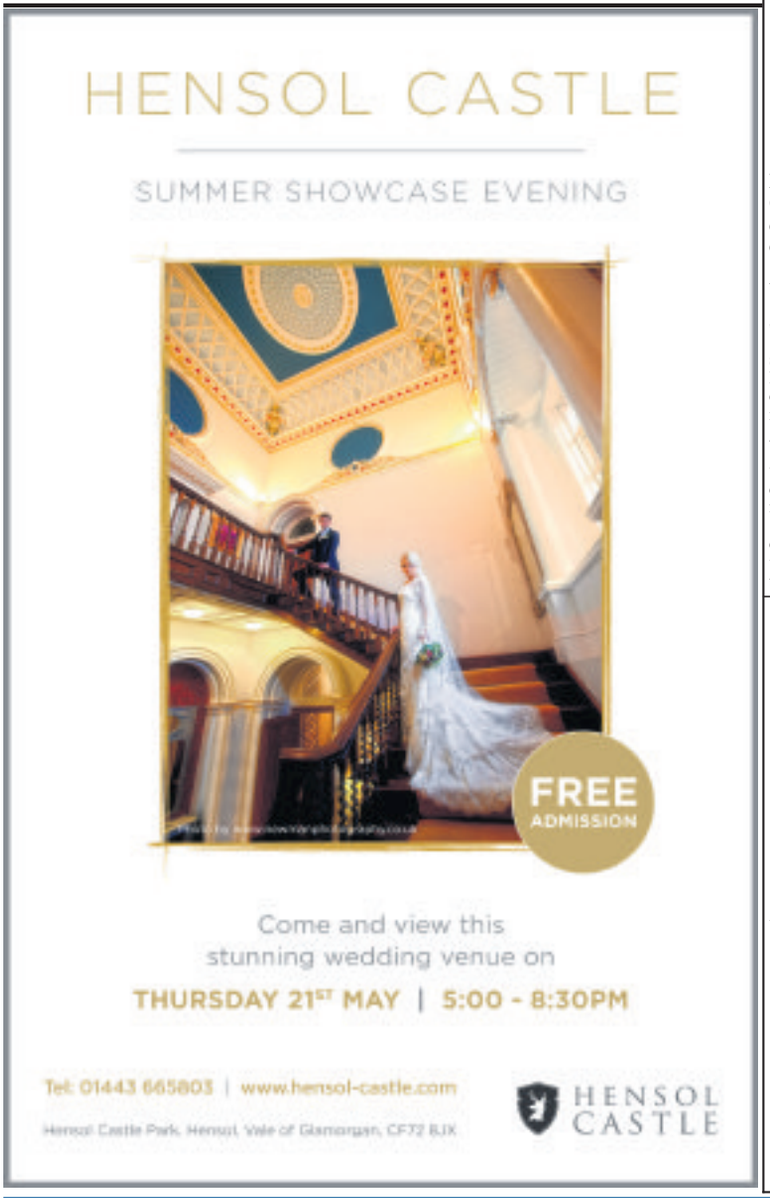
STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend are delighted that after searching the galaxies and hoping *'The paws will be with you'*, a home has been found for a dog who bears a striking resemblance to everybody's favourite Star Wars characters, Ewoks.

Max first came to the Rehoming Centre on May 1, 2009 and after six years of searching he finally found a loving new home on May 4.

Staff hoped that Max's stark resemblance to the famous Star Wars characters would help potential adopters put their 'Hans' up for Max to ensure he wouldn't remain 'Solo'.

Dogs Trust Bridgend, Supporter Relations Officer Linda Feagan explained: "Just like his adorable *doppelgangers*, Max is a loyal boy who deserves to find his forever home. It's so fitting that after six years of searching it seems the force is with strong with him and he found a new home on May 4."

If you are interested in rehoming a dog, call the Bridgend Rehoming Centre on 0300 303 0292; open every day between 12pm-4pm apart from Wednesdays. Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre Bridgend, is at Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 4NG.



Wood trades students Lewis Cooksley, Lewis Leong, Mathew Manthe, Gareth Davies and Luke Williams in front of CAVC's new city centre campus, where they had work placements.

College students help build their new city centre campus

MORE than 200 Cardiff and Vale College students have helped in the construction of the college's new £45m city centre campus in Cardiff.

Working with site developers Willmott Dixon, the students have had work placements at the 16,000m² landmark campus, due to open in September.

Jordan Phillips, a carpentry student from Cardiff, said: "It was really good, especially to be out learning in the 'real world'. Learning in the classroom is great, but you pick things up much more quickly in a real work environment and you get to be hand's on."

Fellow carpentry student Helen Kane spent her work placement job shadowing and helping to fix cladding from scaffolding on the top floor in the new campus' atrium.

"My fear of the unknown on a large site was conquered, particularly as the team I worked with were friendly and all the other trades worked together. It is easy to think you may do something you have learned in college wrong on site, but my week showed me how organised the work is and how enjoyable the challenges are."

St John Day

BRIDGEND town centre will be the venue for a St John Cymru Wales collection and demonstration day, today (May 16) from 10am.

Contact pencoedbridgendenquiries@stjohncymruwales.onmicrosoft.com.

The event will include information about St John, the chance to visit an ambulance, and first aid demonstrations; also to obtain information on training courses.

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ALL'S WELL (SO FAR!) IN FONMON APIARY

WHAT a difference a day makes! Or in this case, a month.

From a mainly sunny April we now have wind, rain and very variable temperatures.

The five colonies here at FonMon are looking good, although one colony is showing a few bees with deformed wings, and the cause of this is the predation of theVarroa mite.

A visit from the bee inspector to check the health of each colony has been carried out and all is well, with of course a cautionary note to continue with my Varroa monitoring programme.

The colonies are now expanding and with queens laying daily, it is my job to carry out regular inspections and to provide extra room to accommodate these busy queens.

What is a regular inspection? Well, once a week is the aim – but, of course, this is going to be entirely dependent on the weather: opening a colony in poor conditions ie wind, rain or cool days, is not to be recommended. On some occasions, it has to be done, especially if the health of a colony is suspect.

What am I looking for when I open up a colony of bees and reach the lower section (the brood area)? Can I actually see the queen: maybe not, but it is not essential that you do so. If eggs can be observed in the cells, or larvae are present and, of course, sealed-over larvae are there, then you have a colony that is proceeding normally, and providing room for expansion is all they require from you.

Apart from the lower box (brood box) there are the upper boxes known as supers (because they are superimposed on the brood box). In these, the bees store the nectar and pollen.

Given fair weather, these boxes can fill very rapidly and you must try to keep up; failure to provide room is one of the major causes of swarming.

All beekeepers experience the swarming of their bees at some time or another, and we are not always adept enough to prevent it.

Swarm prevention methods are many and varied and beekeepers will end up trying several of them over their time as beekeepers. All that being said, we are now well into our beekeeping year and we are ever hopeful of a summer akin to the one last year. If this happens, then the bees will respond to the nice weather and be out seeking sources of said pollen and nectar.

Given fair conditions, bees (the ladies are the ones that do all the work) gather in more than they really require and it is the amount that is surplus to their requirements that I, the beekeeper, remove for myself.

The education of new beekeepers is under way at the Dyffryn training apiary and as the year progresses, on each of my visits to check on the progress of the colonies, our newcomers will be invited to attend as well. This will give them 'hands on' experience, plus confidence in the handling of open colonies.

Those of you with access to the internet need only tap in 'beekeeping' and you may be there forever. You can, of course, have access to video footage if you tap into your search box 'beekeeping YouTube' and this will reveal much more of the life in the bee colony.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

'Point-scoring' in the Vale

IN the last edition of The GEM, I was intrigued to read Coun Burnett's gripe about the Vale Conservative candidate, Alun Cairns.

Coun Burnett's comments merely demonstrate the narrow mindedness and inward thinking of some of the councillors representing the Vale.

Rather than celebrating that somebody actually wants to invest in Barry, as usual we have the usual point-scoring from those who once again fail to see the bigger picture.

While Barry seems to attract little interest from outside investment, it does beg the question about the ability within the council to think strategically and focus on Barry's regeneration.

While I have no affiliation with Mr Cairns or the Conservative party, he does seem prepared to raise his head above the parapet and get involved in issues important to both local residents and Barry as a whole.

Perhaps when some councillors adopt a more hands-on approach, become less complaining and concentrate on things which really matter, we may see Barry and the Vale have a turnaround in its fortunes.

Rob Taylor,
Barry.

SOUTH WALES DOG AND FAMILY FUN DAY A GREAT DAY OUT!

The South Wales Dog and Family Fun Day at Fonmon Castle on Bank Holiday Monday, May 25, is a must in the calendar for anyone who owns a dog, has children or who would just like a great day out!

A spokewoman explained: "We really do have something for everyone. The event is now in its fourth year and is growing in size and what is on offer.

"This year there is the addition of an Artisan Food Court and Bar which should prove a welcome addition to those attending the event!

"This year we have an amazing range of attractions and displays including Richard Curtis with his amazing K9 Quackers and K9 freestyle dancing dog displays; Paws For Thought dog display team; Marney Wells with Garbo; Larki Gundogs' Viking Combat and Living History; Malpeet K9 Academy, Medical Detection Dogs and Deaf Dog Network.

"We also welcome back our regular stall holders and also our new vendors. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely day browsing the independent designers, small businesses and craftspeople stands – both local and from across the UK.

"There are all the favourite dog-related stalls selling dog foods, beds, treats, coats, bandanas, leads and collars, to those selling jewellery, paintings and gorgeous gifts, and bespoke art and craft items that you can seldom buy in the shops!

"We have a huge fun dog show, a Scruffts heat, Wales' Woof Factor, Gundog Scurry competition, various doggy have-a-go's and free microchipping provided by Dogs Trust.

"For children we have a funfair, combat zone, go-carts, donkey rides, children petting farm, mascots and even a free play area.

"We have various trade and charity stalls, Bro Radio with a live broadcast, falconry, ferrets and various snakes and reptiles."

Entry is just £10/car! Our website is www.fonmoncharitydogsshow.com

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Out and About with The GEM

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA...

Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, May 19 at 10am, 'Bluebells', starting at the car park opposite the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major.

From May 21-24, the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival takes place; see *www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk*.

On Wednesday, May 20 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Wednesday, May 27 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet outside the visitor centre at Cosmeston Country Park.

On Thursday, May 28 at 10am, 'West!', starting at the Sycamore Tree, Colwinston, CF71 7NG.

Breastfriends' meeting

BARRY Breastfriends (Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Suport Group) will be meeting on Friday (May 15) at 2pm in the Masonic hall, Broad Street.

The speaker this month is Alison Wyatt, from Velindre Hospital, who will be talking about the importance of physical activity following treatment, and also how the use of acupuncture is being trialled to alleviate some of the side effects of medication.

For more details of the meeting, or information about the group, telephone Pam on 07919 035658.

SAS man at Vale Church

THIS Sunday (May 17) Vale Church is hosting a special event at Costa Coffee, Cowbridge at 5pm as part of the monthly programme of Cafe Church, with a guest speaker who has over 20 years' military service, 17 spent with the SAS.

Mark Davies has a broad experience of all types of military operation; conventional war, covert, counter terrorism and VIP protection. He also advises governments and NGOs on security issues. Mark will share how he maintains his faith in this challenging industry. This promises to be a very interesting evening.

Everyone is welcome to this event and we know many people expressed an interest at our May Fair stall. So it may be wise to be a little early to get a seat and a coffee! Our cafe evenings are very informal and it is a chance to get to know Vale Church and hear inspiring life stories without the religious trappings.

Contact Neil on 07870 168154. **AG**

Coffee morning

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Emma Pritchard, will be hosting a coffee morning on Monday, May 18, to be held at Ty Hapus, 163 Holton Road, Barry (CF63 4HP) at 10am to 12pm in aid of charities the mayor has chosen to support during her term of office.

These are Ty Hapus and MND (Motor Neurone Disease) Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan.

For more information contact 01446 704921, or email juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Group for older dancers perform

Maesteg events

ON May 27, 11am – 3.30pm there will be a film, dance and buffet at Maesteg Town Hall and market square.

From Wednesday, May 27 – Friday, May 29 Llynfi Valley Dramatic Society presents: *Rosemary Calling* by Tracey Lewis, *Snowbound* by Paul Skye and *Last Panto in the Llynfi Valley* by David Tristram; curtain up at 7.30pm.

On May 30 (7pm) *A Proud Celebration of Llynfi Valley Choral Music* features Cor Meibion a'r Cylch; Harmony; Take Note, at Maesteg Town Hall.

Local author's slice of life

***BARA/BREAD*, by local playwright Carmen Medway-Stephens, will be staged at Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend on May 26 (7.30pm).**

Set in the small fictitious village of Lovenny, *Bara/Bread* is a story about a village that is dying, thanks to the rise of the materialistic society – the superstore and the bypass that circumnavigates it.

The all-female cast has an age range from 18 – 70 years, and their binding interest is baking: one woman starts the 'bread club'. Through their search for the 'mother dough', the audience will be taken on a journey of discovery.

For tickets, contact www.ticketsource.co.uk/carnegiehouse or Carnegie House team on 01656 815757 (9am – 1pm).

High Street artisan market – and also a spring fayre

THIS Saturday, May 16, shoppers and bargain hunters have a great double opportunity.

High Street shopping area is holding an artisan market with stalls selling real ales, artisan cheeses, garden plants and hand crafted gifts all accompanied with music from The Bucket Band.

Among the stalls will be Little Welsh Cottage, Teifi Cheese and Brewery, Homemade Wales, Celtic Wines, BL Gardens, Asia Spice Box, a local artist-photographer plus lots more crafts: ie homemade cards, candles, jewellery, Raw Chocolate.

There will be hot and cold food and drinks supplied by Little Blue Deli who are having a large marquee in the street.

A spokeswoman said: "On behalf of the High Street traders, we would like to thank all those who have contributed to get this event up and running, especially Mari-Wyn Ellias-Jones and Sarah Jones, both from the Vale Council.

"Thanks also to Jan Irving at The GEM for her support and time."

Just four minutes' walk from High Street, in St Paul's Avenue, shoppers can take advantage of a host of bargains at St Paul's Spring Fayre, famous for over 50 years for stalls full of bargains.

On sale will be toys, books, DVDs and CDs; gifts and cards; home-made cakes; bric-a-brac, sweets, crafts and a 'prize-every-time' stall.

There will be a big raffle with first prize of £50 and many other prizes including drinks and grocery hampers and home-made cakes, sandwiches and refreshments will be on sale.

All proceeds from the fayre are to help the continuing work of the Barry churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan.

The High Street market opens at 10am; the bargain fayre at St Paul's Hall is open from 2pm until 4pm, admission is 50p and entry for all children is free.

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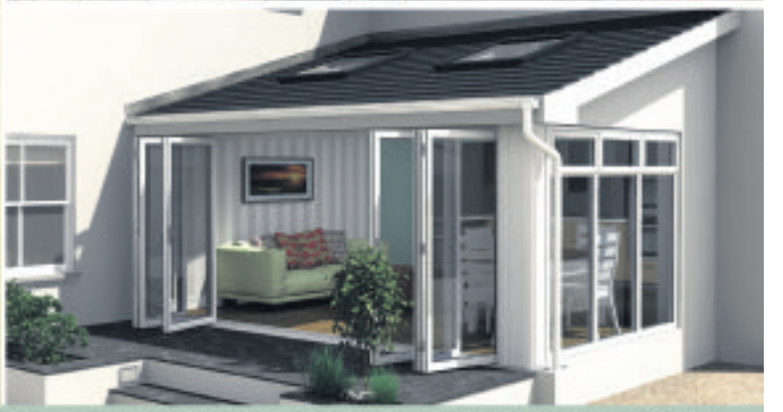

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‘SEISMIC’ RESULTS STUN THE PARTIES

How small numbers had massive impact in shock general election

ONE of the puzzles of the general election is how such a surprise – seismic and shocking are just two of the adjectives bandied about – can be triggered by such small numbers.

Consider the following figures – the swing from Labour to Conservative in the constituencies that are in The GEM’s circulation area.

In Bridgend, where Labour’s Madeleine Moon held her seat, the swing from Labour to Conservative was all of 0.5 per cent.

In Ogmore, Huw Irranca-Davies also held it for Labour with a swing to the Conservatives of 0.6 per cent.

In the Vale, number 63 in Labour’s top 100 targets, Alun Cairns increased his majority but even here the swing from Labour to the Conservatives was only 2.28 per cent.

The only seat to go against this tide was Cardiff South and Penarth, where Labour’s Stephen Doughty increased his majority, with the swing reversed, going from Conservative to Labour to the tune of 2.8 per cent.

These don’t look like the sort of numbers that can change the political landscape, but they did.

You would not at first glance imagine that a Labour leader would need to fall on his sword so quickly – but Ed Miliband was gone before lunch the following day.

Of course, the polling organisations – misled by the “shy Tories” – had predicted a swing in the other direction, so everyone (including the media) was completely caught out.

You can’t help wondering if Ed Miliband would have felt obliged to hurry off so quickly if the earlier polls had been more accurate. As it was, that ‘shocking’ exit poll left everyone stunned.

The big numbers in this election were to be found outside of the top two – as the collapse in the Lib-Dem vote was more dramatic than anyone could have foreseen.

In the four seats listed in this article, the Lib-Dems lost their deposit in each one. ‘Carnage’ seems to be the only appropriate word.

In 2010 in the Vale, Eluned Parrot polled 7,403, but last Thursday, David Morgan recorded just 1,309 – a staggering fall of over 6,000 votes.

In Bridgend, the Lib-Dems fell from 8,658 in 2010 to 1,648 – more than 7,000.

In Cardiff South and Penarth, the Lib-Dem vote plummeted from 9,875 to 2,318 – a fall of 7,657.

In Ogmore, the fall was still bad, but smaller – from 5,260 to 1,072 – more than 4,000.

So, where did the Lib-Dem vote go? It’s tempting to say that they went to UKIP, but that is an over-simplification.

Anyway, in each seat the UKIP vote is up, but not by as many as there were Lib-Dem defections.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon told The GEM that some Lib-Dem votes had traditionally been ‘protest votes’ – and she felt that those had gone to UKIP.

However, the destination of committed Lib-Dems was more complex.

Kevin Mahoney, who stood for UKIP in the Vale, told The GEM: “I expected some Lib-Dem voters to go to Labour, although I’m sure that we did get a share.

“However, in Barry we felt that Labour voters were switching to us – and the fear of a Labour SNP link-up was the biggest factor there.”

For Plaid Cymru, it was another frustrating election. No deposits were lost in the four seats below, but some of the candidates came pretty close.

There had been hopes that Leanne Wood’s group hug with Nicola Sturgeon and Natalie Bennett at the candidates’ debate would sprinkle a bit of Scots Nats’ magic on the party, but it proved to be illusory.

The four seats represent two extremes in one way. Campaigning was very energetic in the Vale, with the Conservatives putting all their resources into defending the seat, while Labour were reported to have switched some canvassers from Cardiff North to the Vale.

Bridgend was very different, due to the sad death of Madeleine Moon’s husband, Steve. Mrs Moon told The GEM that Labour did not campaign at all for the first three weeks, and the tragic event meant that it was all very low-key.

In the end though, the result wasn’t far out of step with the other local seats. It tends to confirm the line of thought that says that UK national issues such as the economy, and how the respective leaders performed, were the key elements.

For UKIP, Kevin Mahoney said he was looking forward to the Assembly elections in 12 months time, and one suspects that the other parties are not – with the exception of the Conservatives.

The Welsh Conservative Leader Andrew RT Davies AM, said: “This has been an incredible night for Welsh Conservatives.

“These results are a giant leap forward for the party and I am extremely pleased for all our Members of Parliament – and for every candidate in Wales; all have made huge efforts during this campaign.

“This success is testament to our huge progress and good work for our country.”

He congratulated Alun Cairns, saying: “Alun’s increased majority was a reward for the hard work which he has undertaken on behalf of his constituents here in the Vale.”

Mr Davies added: “Another winner should not be forgotten. With Byron, Chris and James now joining Glyn and David (as MPs), I am glad to see the name Davies making further huge strides north and south – east and west!”

The general election results for the four constituencies in The GEM’s circulation area were as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan (turnout 71.1 per cent)
Alun Cairns Conservative 23,607
Chris Elmore Labour 16,727
Kevin Mahoney UK Independence Party 5,489
Ian Johnson Plaid Cymru 2,869
David Morgan Liberal Democrat 1,309
Alan Armstrong Green 1,054
Steve Reed Cannabis is Safer than Alcohol 238

Bridgend (turnout 65.8 per cent).
Madeleine Moon Labour 14,624
Meirion Jenkins Conservative 12,697
Caroline Jones UK Independence Party 5,911
James Radcliffe Plaid Cymru 2,784
Anita Davies Liberal Democrat 1,648
Les Tallon-Morris Independent 763
Tony White Green 736
Aaron David TUSC 118
David Elston Pirate Party UK 106
Adam Lloyd National Front 66

Ogmore (turnout 63.7 per cent).
Huw Irranca-Davies Labour 18,663.
Jane March Conservative 5,620.
Glenda Davies UK Independence Party 5,420.
Tim Thomas Plaid Cymru 3,556
Gerald Francis Liberal Democrat 1,072
Laurie Brophy Green 754
Emma Saunders TUSC 165

Cardiff South and Penarth (turnout 61.6%)
Stephen Doughty Labour Co-op 19,966
Emma Warman Conservative 12,513
John Rees-Evans (UKIP) 6,423
Ben Foday Plaid Cymru 3,443
Nigel Howells Lib-Dem 2,318
Anthony Slaughter Green 1,746
Ron Saunders TUSC 258

GEM NOTE: TUSC = Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition

Chapel’s anniversary

ANNIVERSARY services will be held on Sunday, May 17 at 11am and 6pm, when friends are reunited at Horeb Chapel, Nantymoel.

William Hughes, former pator at Horeb chapel and Pastor Chris Bluto, will bring the messages. All are welcome.

Call Pastor Bluto for details on 01443 675424, or contact chris_bluto@yahoo.co.uk.

BAVO advice

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) is holding a funding drop-in session at its offices on Commercial Street in Maesteg on May 20 from 2pm – 4pm.

Community or voluntary groups in Bridgend county borough can get free advice and guidance on funding.

For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400.

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Spooks film makes leap from small screen to big screen with aplomb...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

AS dark and brooding Jon Snow in hit TV series *Game of Thrones*, Kit Harrington has picked up plenty of acclaim, the actor transferring his talents to the big screen in the poor blockbuster *Pompeii* last year, and earlier this year in *Testament of Youth*.

He brings up the British end, as it were, as he stars in TV series-turned-movie *Spooks: The Greater Good*. He plays Will Holloway, a protege of spy boss Harry Pearce (Peter Firth), who is tasked with tracking down his former boss after he disappears following the escape of terror suspect Adem Qasim (Elyes Gabel). Wth a terror attack on London looming, Will must put the pieces of what has happened together, find Qasim and clear Pearce's name...

Confession time – while I have a passing knowledge of *Spooks*, I've never settled down to watch an episode of it. I'm aware of the ongoing rotation of secret agents who have graced the show through the years (from Richard Armitage to Matthew Macfadyen, Hermione Norris to Miranda Raison), that deaths are gruesome and shocking (one involved a deep fat fryer) and the marketing slogan "MI5 not 9 to 5", but aside from that I am very much in the dark.

Any worries that *The Greater Good* was a treat for fans only, however, were soon assuaged by a solidly realised film that certainly makes passing nods to the past, but also looks firmly to a future, playing like a British take on *24*, full of twists and turns, drama and spectacle. While it never quite makes the leap from good to great, it's still an espionage drama well worth investing in, fan or no fan.

More than just a procession of shoot-outs and set-pieces, *The Greater Good* aims for the mind, fashioning a story where you can't trust anyone at face value and that anything could happen at any moment.

This edge of your seat storytelling is not just compelling but also wonderfully taut – you don't need gun fights to create tension, just two characters warily assessing the situation and the fact that neither knows what the other may or may not do.

The story here is anchored around series mainstay Peter Firth as Harry Pearce, and his attempts to get to the bottom of how a terrorist suspect escaped custody. While the posters would have you think otherwise, Firth is very much to the forefront of the story, and while Kit Harrington may do the physical lifting, it's Firth's tremendous performance that drives the story.

Quietly charismatic, Pearce will go to great lengths for the titular greater good (a point rather too broadly hammered home in the film's climax) and it's his murky moral compass that provides the real meat here, the film asking questions of what is right and what is wrong.

Harrington impresses as the former spy coerced into chasing down Harry, even if he isn't overly good at doing it, Pearce always seemingly outwitting to an almost embarrassing degree; indeed, as the wonderful Tim McInnerny wonderfully puts it: "I can see why he decommissioned you".

Yet aside from this, Harrington provides a solid outing with a relatively underdeveloped character, acting as the audience's eyes and ears.

Director Bharat Nalluri's TV background does show in the visual economy of the piece, but he imbues the piece with no end of tension and drama, cleverly highlighting the fact that you don't necessarily need to go globetrotting to create a worthy spy thriller.

Where the film does lose points is in having a villain whose reputation is greater than his actions, Elyes Gabel's Qasim feeling no more than a rote terrorist, despite suggestions to the contrary, while some story strands feel ill-resolved (the fate of Will's father, for example) and undercooked.

However *Spooks: The Greater Good* is a dependable thriller that entertains without ever catching fire; it may have a little more cache for those fans of the series, but even newcomers will find much to savour here.

VERDICT: A solidly satisfying big screen outing for a TV show, *Spooks: The Greater Good* transfers to cinemas with success. A powerful central turn from Peter Firth makes this engaging, twist-filled effort worth watching for both hardened fans and those who are uneducated in the ways of the show. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Bourne Identity* (2002), *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* (2011).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Street demo

ON Thursday, May 14, Cowbridge Art Society welcome Cardiff artist Paul Weaver, who will give a demonstration of painting a street scene in watercolour.

Paul is an experienced tutor, has exhibited widely, has published articles in The Artist magazine, has made his own DVD on watercolour painting, and is an elected member of the Pure Watercolour Society.

Cowbridge Art Society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, (7pm–9pm) and visitors and new members are welcome.

For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Fashion show

CARDIFF and Vale Breakthrough Group will be holding a charity fashion show on May 15 to raise money for breast cancer research in support of the charity, Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Tickets are £8, and the fashion show starts at 7pm. For tickets and more information, please contact Pam on 07191 035658.

WOMAN IN GOLD – DON'T TRUST THE TRAILER

MOVIE trailers are notorious for giving a false impression of a film, *writes Philip Irwin*.

All the best bits get crammed into two minutes, making a dull effort look dazzling.

So, who on earth put together the trailer for *Woman in Gold?* – because it does the opposite and undersells what is a really fine film.

Viewers of the trailer see Helen Mirren playing Maria Altman, an eccentric lady with an eastern European accent, and we are told it is a legal drama about her attempt to reclaim her family's paintings, looted by the Nazis when they took control of Austria.

The paintings, all by Gustaf Klimt, now hang in Austria's national museum, and the most famous by far is of Maria's aunt Adele, the *Woman in Gold*.

To this end, she recruits a young American lawyer, E Randol Schoenberg, played by Ryan Reynolds, to take the Austrian government to court.

However, *Woman in Gold* is much more than a quirky legal drama.

There is an extended flash back to the Nazi occupation, capturing the turmoil and tragedy of the time, and bringing tears to your eyes when Maria and her husband make the decision to flee.

There's a brilliantly-shot, tension-packed sequence when they escape their Gestapo minders, and then the film returns to the present day, giving a strong cast a fine script to work with.

Mirren and Reynolds take the lion's share of the acting plaudits, but there are fine performances by Daniel Bruhl, as an Austrian who is dealing with his own demons as a result of the war, and Jonathan Pryce, as the chief justice of the US Supreme Court.

It's good to see Katie Holmes back on screen after the Tom Cruise years – she plays Reynolds' wife, and Tatiana Maslany, who plays the young Helen Mirren, is one to watch for the future.

Woman in Gold may have moved on from the multiplexes, but it is well worth catching this thought-provoking and well-written British film if you get the chance.

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Cadets prove to be 'model' students

CADETS from 372 (Barry) Squadron Air Training Corps have recently formed a squadron model-making club.

The first instructional day was supervised by civilian instructors Ade Pitman and Glenn Gill, who themselves are model makers.

Ade Pitman said: "During a visit to a model show at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton in Somerset, Cadets had the opportunity to try their hands at making model aircraft, many for the first time, at the 'Project Airfix' display.

"Like everyone new to a hobby, the first efforts wouldn't win any prizes but the Cadets asked if we could organise regular model making days, so they could learn how to improve their skills. "

Now the Squadron holds a 'model making day' once a month, where the Squadron provides the models and materials to the Cadets so that they can learn about the fascinating hobby of model making.

Models made by the Cadets will be displayed at model shows, including the next Fleet Air Arm Museum Model Show, in October. The Cadets will also be representing the Barry Squadron at the South Wales 'Wing' Cadet Model Competition later this summer.

Most of the model kits being made by the Cadets have been donated by local modellers, and we would very much like to hear from anyone who has some unmade model kits that you would like to donate to a good home.

Model making is just one activity carried out by the Air Training Corps Cadets, and this summer they also have lined up Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, flying in light aircraft, museum visits, archery, shooting and many other activities. The Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old, and parades on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm–9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall). Contact the squadron on 01446 747734 or email oc.372@aircadets.org for more information.

Emojis boosts youth confidence

A PRESENTATION evening on April 17 celebrated the success of local young people involved in the Emojis project.

The project, run by the Vale Council's Youth Service team, aims to help young people learn to better express themselves, and build self-esteem and confidence levels.

They take part in a wide range of activities including singing and music production, film making, and sound engineering, as well as sports.

Certificates were presented by Vale Mayor, Coun Howard Hamilton, and director of learning and skills, Jennifer Hill.

The Emojis project is supported by Families First, Barry YMCA, Fact, and The Hub, as well as the Council's Youth Service.

Hospital opening a new coffee shop

UNIVERSITY Hospital Llandough will be opening a new coffee shop later this year – as part of the new Plaza facility being built at the hospital.

The Aroma Café opened its first branch on Monday (May 11) at Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales in Cardiff and will serve up high quality coffee and other food and drink refreshments.

The Cardiff and Vale University Health Board venture will see all the proceeds re-invested into local patient care.

Geoff Walsh, assistant director of planning, capital, estates and operational services, said the scheme would help make the most of the health board's assets and would be expanding to other areas and hospitals.

He said: "Renting out space to coffee companies is an easy option. I believe we have got to make the most of the opportunities we have here and Aroma Café will do that."

There are plans to develop another café in the women's unit at University Hospital of Wales and at University Hospital Llandough.

Peaches needs a home!

PEACHES is a four-year-old Samoyed-cross German Shepherd who is lively and boisterous, but adores people.

She does lack socialising skills with other dogs – and will need owners who can help her improve on this.

Peaches is a friendly and beautiful dog, but she does have some behavioural issues which will have to be worked on, with advice from our trainers.

Children in the home will need to be over 14 years of age, and Peaches will need to be the only dog in the home. With the correct training put in place, Peaches will make a fun and rewarding companion.

If you can offer Peaches a home, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, we're open 12pm-4pm every day except Wednesday.

LINDA FEAGAN, Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust Bridgend

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ORGANISERS HOPE DOG SHOW RAISED MORE THAN £2,000 FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

BY popular demand, The GEM is showing some more images of the Seventh Annual Charity Fun Dog Show organised by the Friends of Victoria Park, Barry.

There was fun for all sizes and and types of dog with the ever popular dog race track, musical mats, sausage catching and a host of other competitions.

Special guest on the day was Dr Rhys Jones star of BBC1's Wildlife Patrol who helped to judge some of the events. Rhys has been a great supporter of the show and is patron of Friends of the Dogs Wales.

Organisers are hoping to have raised more than £2,000 for local dog and animal charities.

Full details along with lots more photographs will be on the 'Victoria Park, Barry - What's occurring?' Facebook page.

People can also vote for their favourite class winner to be crowned Champion of the Show and win the Sue Price Memorial Trophy – look on the Facebook page for details.

Victoria Park manager, Jon Greatrex, told The GEM: "It was another superb and delightful dog show! Despite the rain in the morning, the weather cleared up, everybody came along and we had a super time.

"Thanks to all the friends, volunteers, supporters, staff and visitors who came and made lucky number 7 such a fun and successful day."

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANGELA MAGEE
TEL: 07540 095908

ABOVE: Kelis, aged 10, with wonderful standard poodle Lola.

ABOVE: Claire Ball with Bonnie the Jack Russell.

ABOVE: Jennifer enjoying the sun with 'Heinz 57' Crystal

Peppa the labrador.

Council launches new 3G pitches...

BUT ATHLETICS CLUB SAYS IT WILL LOSE OUT

THE Vale Council has announced that it will be investing in five new all-weather 3G sports pitches, including one at Barry's Jenner Park Stadium, to allow a greater number of teams of all ages and abilities to use the ground.

The council will also be installing four five-a-side 3G pitches at the Colcot Sports Centre. However, athletics club Barry & Vale Harriers is opposed to the plan.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for visible services, said: "With this project, we are delivering yet more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get involved in sport in the Vale.

"The plan that has been agreed by cabinet marks the start of an exciting sporting and community legacy project which will help us continue our work to regenerate Barry."

The council believes installation of the all-weather pitches will dramatically reduce the cost of maintaining and running both sites, and even greater savings may be possible if facilities were in future managed by an external partner, as is the case with the county's leisure centres. This will now be investigated.

A Barry & Vale Harriers spokeswoman said that the club had over 100 years association with Jenner Park and is completely opposed to the 3G pitch.

She continued: "Despite requesting several meetings with Vale councillors, and also Vale MP Alun Cairns, no-one from the Vale Council has been available to meet Barry & Vale Harriers, or Welsh Athletics, since the publication of the 3G Pitch Feasibility Report.

"The council states that the athletics facilities will not be affected. Can the Vale Council offer us a training facility when construction begins in 12 weeks time, right in the middle of our competition season?

"Can the Vale Council guarantee that Jenner Park will not lose any lanes of track? Can the Vale Council offer us a facility for javelin throwing?

"For many years the athletics community has had to fight for money to be spent on the track at Jenner Park. Time and again we were told there was no money available and yet the Vale Council now has funding for several 3G pitches at the Colcot and Jenner Park.

"Jenner Park is a community facility not just a footballing one. The athletics community, which includes Welsh schools and Vale schools and disability sports groups, will suffer from the installation of a 3G pitch.

"An on-line petition has been set up by Barry & Vale Harriers and over 500 people have signed. We hope that more people will join us in opposing this decision.

"Barry & Vale Harriers, along with Welsh Athletics, will continue to fight the decision."

Ty Hafan lottery rollover prize tops £11,000 mark

THE latest Tŷ Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery rollover prize now stands at an impressive £11,000 – and could reach a maximum of £12,000, where it will become a guaranteed prize.

"By becoming a member of Crackerjackpot for £1 a week, supporters have the chance to win big prizes which could fund a dream holiday, a new car and or maybe some home improvements," said John Mladenovic, Tŷ Hafan's Lottery general manger.

"Winning £11,000 could make a real difference to someone's life and we hope it will attract more local people to support us by playing the lottery.

"As well as being in with a chance of winning big cash prizes, every member of our Crackerjackpot lottery makes a real difference to life-limited children and their families from across Wales. Crackerjackpot provides a vital source of reliable income for Tŷ Hafan, raising around a third of the total amount needed every year."

"Back in 1998, the hospice began its own lottery, and since that time, has paid out more than £1.5 million to lucky winners from all over Wales who have chosen to support Tŷ Hafan in this way.

"The £11,000 draw will be made this Friday, May 15 so don't delay in buying your ticket either from one of Tŷ Hafan's 29 shops across Wales or become a member online at the website *www.lottery.tyhafan.org* or by calling 02920 532300."

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Sea Scouts collect certificates

A GROUP from 11th Barry Sea Scouts have received certificates to commemorate a visit to Parliament with other Scouts, Cubs and Beavers from Barry.

They are pictured with MP Alun Cairns, who said: "The leaders do such a wonderful job in the local community. Many of the group are now working towards the democracy badge, so I hope the trip to Parliament and certificates will be useful in attaining future badges."

VALE MAYOR HANDS CHEQUE TO CHARITY

THE Mayor and Mayoress of the Vale recently paid a visit to Swansea Airport to present a cheque to Wales Air Ambulance in respect of money raised for the charity during their year of office.

The Mayor, Coun Howard Hamilton, said: "I am very pleased to present this cheque to a very worthy charity and the Mayoress and I would like to thank everyone who has supported our fundraising events throughout our year."

Six questions on Vale developments

FOR over 12 months, The GEM has published letters from residents in locations throughout the Vale expressing their astonishment and concern that planning applications for large developments of housing have been submitted to the Vale planning department by large developers for approval.

In many instances, the approval has been given; the common thread in all the letters is that the applications are inappropriate both in size and nature for the locations in question.

What has been quite remarkable is that despite this ongoing well publicised issue, there has been no response by any of our elected officials in the Vale Council.

We must not forget that it is us, the people, who vote for the councillors in the expectation that they will represent our views when considering all issues relating to the Vale and in particular planning matters.

It is obvious that they have done no such thing and are totally ignoring the wishes of the majority whom they claim to represent. Furthermore, these public servants employed by the Vale have a duty to act in a fair and reasonable manner with regard to all planning issues. It cannot be stressed enough that our elected officials and the council officials are remunerated from the public purse which is filled by the taxes of the people they should be supporting.

The time has come when the Vale Council need to answer the following questions:

Why are they insisting on 10,000 houses being built when the figure suggested by the Welsh Government is 5,600?

Where will the 10,000 plus people appear from to purchase these houses?

Where will the buyers of these houses find employment?

Of the 10,000 houses, how many will be classed as 'affordable houses' and where will these be located?

What is the anticipated financial income that the developers will pay to the council for these 10,000 houses?

Why has the business plan to support this apparent nonsensical building programme not been published?

Gareth Jones,
Colwinston.

Volunteer Jack wins plaudits

BARRY resident Jack Hardman has been warmly praised for his voluntary work in supporting the community and the environment.

He led 'PULP', which tackled the problem of dog mess on the streets and in parks, before habits changed with the introduction of 'Scoop a poop' and educational messages for all ages.

On Saturday, the Vale AM congratulated him at her regular surgery and said: "Jack Hardman is well known for his extensive voluntary work to protect the environment and support the community. I thank him for all his hard work over many years, from which he is gradually retiring."

Jack Hardman with Vale AM Jane Hutt.

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2015 FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL
The Glamorgan GEM
ACTIVITIES • EXHIBITOR LIST • TOWN MAP • FOOD DEMONSTRATION TIMES

MAY 24th-25th 2015

Cowbridge Food &Drink Festival

New date will make a difference to festival

'WE'RE BACK, with a fresh spring in our step!'

AFTER 18 months without a festival, we are at last gearing up for the 11th Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival.

It has, of course, changed date from October half term to May half term, which may not guarantee sun, but will hopefully provide some better weather – and at least give our trusty volunteers and contractors, daylight to work in.

The reason for the change was that ticket sales in October were incredibly weather-dependent and, frankly, the forecasted hurricanes of 2013 (which didn't really materialise) nearly finished us off. A few more years like that and our ability to stage and run the festival would have been gone.

So the decision was made to move to May – as the summer months were already taken with weddings and other events – and the planning started in January 2014. Now here we are with, hopefully, a fresh spring in our step, with a different season of produce creating variety, but with many of our old favourites back.

The addition of the Vale Forge site, has meant that we can create a'Food Court' area, where the whole family can eat their preference, but sit together and enjoy the local music at our new entertainment gazebo.

Ticket prices have remained the same this year, but we have become very modern (!) and set up an online bookings service which is proving popular. Our first tickets sold in January with a 10 per cent off promotion, and since then we have had a steady trickle – although tickets are, of course, available at the festival for each day and the weekend. *Opening hours are now 9.30am-5pm both days.*

As usual, we'd like to thank our sponsors, HSBC, who help us immensely over the

by JOHN DAVIES
Chair of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival

weekend with staffing the paypoints. This year, we welcome Macey Owen and Marriot Hotel Cardiff to the sponsor list, both of whom approached us and wanted to recognise the organisation for what it was doing for the community.

Thanks to all those who offer their land free of charge to the festival. Without you, this festival would not be able to continue.

The Welsh Government has kindly guaranteed an amount of funding towards the festival, but this by no means guarantees the festival long term and I would encourage all visitors to Cowbridge over the weekend, to buy a ticket and visit our stalls.

The town is amazingly supportive and holds some great satellite events during the festival, but without ticket sales, the infrastructure of park and ride, signage, marquees, electricity, press and marketing etc will not happen and the festival will cease to be.

I have had an amazing 10 years working on the festival and have been proud to be its Chair. But now I feel the time has come to hand over the reins. Thanks to all the committee members that I've worked with over the years for such hard work though cold, dark and drizzly days and nights.

It has been a thoroughly rewarding time and I hope that a suitable candidate can be found to take on this amazing event with an enthusiastic team and build for a great future.

Expert food demos at the festival on May 24-25

10.15am: Sian Roberts – Loving Welsh Food

SIAN is the Director of Loving Welsh Food, a new venture for 2015; the company offers Welsh food tours and safaris, cooking workshops, demonstrations and talks.

The whole idea of the company is to offer activities where people can taste and enjoy Welsh food and drink, find out more about our food heritage, and get to know Wales better!

"I love cooking, all kinds of food and drink, and I'm very proud of the fabulous food and drink that we have here in Wales", she says.

Sian has been promoting Welsh food for many years, and her work has taken her all over Wales, and to France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Spain and New York.

She speaks Welsh, French and Italian fluently.

Sian also works for the media as a producer, presenter and voice-over artist. Sian is one of the S4C continuity announcers and freelance newsreader for BBC Radio Wales.

http://lovingwelshfood.uk/

11.30am: Wayne Thomas – Canteen on Clifton Street

WAYNE THOMAS is co-chef and co-owner of Canteen on Clifton Street in Cardiff – a vegetarian restaurant that has taken the city by storm. Since opening, Canteen has been nominated for numerous awards including being shortlisted for the Vegetarian Society Award for Best Vegetarian Food in both 2008 and 2009.

http://www.canteenoncliftonstreet.com

12.45pm: Anand George – Purple Poppadom, Cardiff

AWARD-winning chef, Anand George, is the driving force behind Purple Poppadom, Cardiff.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

ABOVE: award-winning chef, Anand George.

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Acknowledgements

COWBRIDGE Food and Drink Festival Committee thank all our sponsors and supporters for their help with the 2015 festival:

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Thanks go to: 293sqn Air Training Corps, 750 Co-operative Food, Cowbridge Charter Trust, Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Cowbridge Cricket Club, The Cowbridge GEM, Cowbridge Guide, Cowbridge Health Centre, Effective Communication, Fun Foundations Day Nursery, Lloyds TSB Bank plc, Llwynhelig Farm, Michael Prosser, South Wales Police, St John Ambulance, Watts Coaches, Xantippe, all committee members – and the town of Cowbridge and all the town traders.

Learn the tricks of the trade...

HANG FIRE SMOKEHOUSE – SOUTHERN STYLE BARBECUE

James Sommerin

COOKED.up

Nathan Wyburn

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

From Kerala, India, Anand is one of the UK's most acclaimed chefs, renowned for his pioneering of Nouvelle-Indian cuisine, receiving awards including the prestigious Tiffin Cup for the UKs Best Indian cuisine, and South Asian Chef of the Year.

He recently made a debut entry in The Good Food Guide 2014, Purple Poppadom was also named the Welsh Curry House of the Year 2012 and Indian Restaurant of the Year in the South Wales Echo Food and Drinks Awards 2013.

http://www.purplepoppadom.com.

2pm: Bar 44, Cowbridge and Penarth

THE hugely successful and delicious tapas restaurant will demonstrate some of their amazing tapas to perk up any cocktail or dinner party.

http://www.bar44.co.uk.

3.15pm: CookED.up Cooking and Nutrition School

NEARLY three years old, CookED.up is a Cooking and Nutrition school based in south Wales and the west, catering for children and adults.

CookED.up offers cooking experiences for all abilities.

Whether you are an individual, a family wanting to learn to cook, or a school or business looking for a course or PoP.uP event, there's something for you.

CookEd.up also works with social enterprises and Communities First, as part of a wider community programme supporting healthy eating initiatives and cooking on a budget.

We have recently launched our third YES CHEF venue and also our Party Kitchens in Cowbridge.

http://www.cookedup.co.uk.

Monday, May 25

10.15am: Nathan Wyburn, artist and Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist

NATHAN WYBURN, aged 25, is a Welsh fine art graduate, who specialises mostly in creating iconic 'pop culture' imagery with non-traditional mediums, most notably food! Nathan has appeared on numerous shows, creating artworks with Marmite on toast, sauces, sugar, chocolate etc, as well as other everyday items (soil, candles, toothpaste etc).

He has exhibited all over the world and is appearing at Cowbridge to show a video of various processes and answer your questions about his fascinating (and tasty) work.

http://www.nathanwyburn.co.uk

11.30am: Hang Fire Smokehouse, Llantwit Major

WINNERS of 2015 BBCR4 Food Awards 'Best Streetfood', Samantha Evans and Shauna Guinn travelled to America in 2012/13 on a road trip, to truly experience the American BBQ.

Their mission was to learn from the masters and try as much as possible.

Their adventures included cooking for a rodeo in Houston (50 briskets, 300 chickens and 500 racks of spare rib!) and being entrusted to spice rub secrets that they have to "take to the grave". Hang Fire Smokehouse was born! Their mission? To recreate authentic southern style bbq and to elevate it to the next level, using British produce with unique flavour profiles.

Things are about to get very hot and smokey around here...

http://www.hangfiresmokehouse.com.

12.45pm: James Sommerin, James Sommerin Restaurant, Penarth

JAMES' first kitchen position was aged 12 yrs in and Italian restaurant in Newport, having gained his enthusiasm from Saturdays cooking with his grandmother.

After leaving school, he took a full time position in a hotel at Usk.

Aged 16, James moved to Scotland to work under Richard Lythe, who gave him an understanding of seasonality, quality and the essence of flavour.

In 2000, James and his wife returned to Wales to raise his family and took a position at the Crown at Whitebrook.

He became Head Chef in 2003 and gained a Michelin Star in 2007, which he retained until The Crown's doors closed in 2013.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

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Demos with the experts...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

Full of enthusiasm for the next chapter, James recently opened his own restaurant in Penarth and Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival are thrilled to welcome him to the demo schedule.

http://www.jamessommerinrestaurant.co.uk

2pm: Nicholas Collins, Chef Director, GrATE Catering Ltd

CARDIFF-born chef Nick Collins started his career in the kitchens of Le Manior aux Quat Saisons with Raymond Blanc. Nick then moved into contract catering, where he competed in and won 'Compass Group Chef of the Year' in 2005 for Wales.

Nick cooked for celebrities and royalty in luxury chalets and on super yachts, before becoming the Senior Development Chef for national contract caterer Catering Academy – responsible for food development of £22m worth of business.

As a member of the Welsh Culinary Team, Nick helped to bring back the Battle of the Dragon honours to south Wales with his team mates. He has recently set up his own private dining and outside catering company called grATE catering and is due to open his restaurant in Laleston,

Called 'The Pickled Radish @ the Laleston Inn', it will be offering a relaxed Welsh fine dining restaurant using local Welsh produce.

http://www.gratecatering.uk.

3.15pm: George Fuchs, Illtud's 216, Llantwit Major

Nick Collins.

George Fuchs.

FORMER head chef of the St David's Hotel and Spa in Cardiff, George took over Illtud's 216 in 2007 and has gone from strength-to-strength. He is returning to the festival after many years and will be demonstrating how to make his amazing apple strudel.

http://www.illtuds216.co.uk.

SHOPS GET INTO FESTIVAL SPIRIT

WHILE Cowbridge will be a magnet for foodies on the Sunday and Monday of the Food Festival, those wanting to sample the delights of the High Street shops won't be disappointed either.

Many local traders are getting into the festival spirit with special offers, tombola days, glasses of fizz, and bargains to be had.

Although the festival runs officially from Sunday, May 24 to Monday, May 25, the Champagne Tent at the Bear Hotel is hosting two charity events on Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23. Friday night is an event in support of Coleg Elidyr with live music, champagne on arrival and supper (tickets £30).

On Saturday evening, there is an event in support of Velindre Hospital – champagne on arrival and live music to get you in the party mood (tickets £15).

Tickets for both events are available from Jon Ian, 18 High Street Cowbridge 01446 775226.

The Bear Hotel welcomes guest chef Adam Wood for the Food Festival

• *Here he describes his culinary journey from Cowbridge to London and back...*

AFTER attending Cowbridge Comprehensive School until the completion of my A-Levels, I moved to London aged 18, to start my cooking career.

Having worked part-time at Oscars Cowbridge, I was full of enthusiasm and eager to learn, but little did I know of what awaited me.

My first job was under Marcus Wareing, the 2 Michelin-starred chef, and current '*Masterchef Professionals*' judge, at his newly-opened restaurant, The Gilbert Scott.

Looking back now, I am very grateful and appreciative of my time there, I met some great people and learnt about more than just food. Yet having gone from six hours a day in school to working 17 hours a day in a kitchen, I can safely say I didn't feel the same back then.

For the first five months, I contemplated leaving at nearly every 1am, for the train home, knowing that in five hours time, I'd be doing the very same journey in the opposite direction. As time goes on, the lack of sleep, the berating at work, (to put it politely) and the high pressured environment, just becomes part of what you do... it starts to become quite infectious.

I learnt a great deal at The Gilbert Scott and by the end of my two and a half years there, I was running the sauce section; which is considered the most important in every kitchen.

While there, I learnt to butcher the whole animal and the importance of using every part; there are far tastier things than a fillet! I believe my final six months at The Gilbert Scott to be the most important of my short career so far.

Having done every section, it was time for a change. I was offered a position at the 2-star Michelin restaurant, 'The Square' in Mayfair.

It was a step up in both the standard of cooking and the general intensity of six to eight months, learning the art of pastry and bread baking before moving into the main kitchen, where I would start to expand and refine my knowledge.

From working in these restaurants, I have learnt to cook and eat with the British seasons, therefore gaining a deep respect for nature, and the stunning produce it provides us with.

I believe that in supporting small, local producers and farmers, it will not only benefit the community and environment, but will also drastically improve the standard of food we eat.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

Andrew Wood.

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ACTIVITIES • EXHIBITOR LIST • TOWN MAP • FOOD DEMONSTRATION TIMES

MAY 24th-25th 2015

Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival

CHEF ADAM WILL BE COOKING UP A TREAT!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

I've chosen to cook free range pigs from a local farm. Pork is a very highly used meat but I believe it to be very underrated, and not generally used to its full potential. I want to show everyone that there is much more to a pig than just bacon, and that when cooked in the right way, every part of the animal can taste amazing.

I will be cooking over wood and coal, which will give the meat a lovely sweet and smoky flavour, whilst enhancing the natural taste.

I'm very much looking forward to cooking for the Food Festival – it's a great opportunity, not only to challenge myself, but also to introduce people to something different.

Having enjoyed my past visits to Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, I've always felt the 'drink' was the primary attraction. I would love to change a few people's perceptions by offering delicious food alongside great drink at The Bear Marquee this year.

I look forward to seeing you there!"

ADAM WOOD

Cowbridge activities during the festival

OVER the festival weekend there will be lots to see and do around the town.

Many businesses hold their own promotions, so it is always worth visiting the local shops, but keep looking at the website for an up-to-date list.

List of activities so far:

Treasure trail – We have commissioned a treasure trail for families to explore Cowbridge fully, guiding you through alleys, looking at old landmarks, and solving clues. Eventually, you will find the treasure!

You can download this from our website *www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org*

Copies are available over the weekend.

Fun Foundations Day Nursery – have opened their doors to offer a home to our Magical Chef – Simon Sparkles and Johno will be entertaining the crowds by cooking up a few spells, with magic shows and balloon twisting and a side serving of fun and laughter!

Shows start at 11.30am and 3.30pm each day in Fun Foundations.

Dandy Doodles – Expert face painting will be available in the Food Court site.

'The Angels' from Heart FM – will be in the Food Court area on Sunday with goody-bags and games, and holding a free draw for an amazing hamper of produce and vouchers.

Gemma Griffiths – Mini photo sessions are being offered free of charge on May 24, so book early at *www.facebook.com/gemmagriffithsphotography*.

Vale of Glamorgan Inn is hosting a real ale festival from Friday evening to Monday evening (or until they run out!)

The Bear Hotel – As well as having the champagne bar in their car park with the amazing Aubrey performing, The Bear will have a wealth of foodie activities in their courtyard throughout the weekend and festivities continue over the road at Quarter Penny Café.

Craft fayre – Run by a local business, this will be on the car park of The Duke of Wellington Inn and has a variety of lovely craft stalls.

Produce Fair – Holy Cross Church (Monday only) will have something for all children, from artists to flower arrangers and more.

For a full list visit our website or search out details in this supplement.

Loving Welsh Food tours – This new venture by Sian Basset Roberts will launch on May 19 and is holding taster tours over the bank holiday.

Tickets and more information are available from the website. Sian is also appearing in the Demo Marquee.

Choir Festival – Holy Cross Church (Sunday afternoon) will host several local choirs performing a variety of choral arrangements.

For more info, email tracy@cowbridgefoodanddrink.org

Ambassadors

FOR the first time ever, Vale of Glamorgan Tourism Ambassadors will be available at the main information point during the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival.

The Vale is a destination offering a diversity of experiences, featuring the Heritage Coast, countryside and culture.

Ambassadors are keen to share their knowledge and passion about the Vale of Glamorgan with visitors so that they can get the most out of their time here.

Whether you want to know a local walking route, find out more about the Heritage Coast, Iolo Morgannwg and other local legends, or need somewhere to eat, drink or stay, make sure you speak to an Ambassador!

You will find them outside Cowbridge Town Hall on the day, ready with information to assist your choice of activity.

You can contact an ambassador through www.lovethevale.com and www.MoretotheVale.com

INFORMATION

Festival opening hours: 9.30am to 5pm Sunday and Monday, May 24 – 25.

***Ticket prices**: £5/day or £8 for the weekend. 12 years and under admitted free. Tickets will be available on the day of the festival from the booths on North Road, adjacent to the main festival sites, or you can purchase them online to avoid the queue.*

If purchased online, you can simply make your way to the Arthur John car park entrance, where you will be given a wristband for the rest of your visit – please bring proof of purchase.

The wristband tickets must be worn (not simply waved) to gain access to any of the festival sites.

Wearers of the wristband will also be eligible for other discounted activities and offers – a full list of which will be available online and over the weekend.

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from 2pm BBQ, Pimms & Prosecco Garden, live music from Tom Sutch.
Monday 25th May
from 12pm BBQ, Pimms & Prosecco Garden.

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THE COWBRIDGE FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL 2015
The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Councillor
Fred Johnson,
would like to wish everyone involved with The Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival a happy and successful weekend.

Hoffai Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y Cynghorydd Fred Johnson, ddymuno penwythnos hapus a llwyddiannus i bawb sy'n ymwneud a Gwyl Win, Diod a Bwyd Celtaidd y Bont-Faen.

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2015 FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

The Glamorgan GEM

ACTIVITIES • EXHIBITOR LIST • TOWN MAP • FOOD DEMONSTRATION TIMES

Flower and produce show will be held on May 25

WE are holding a children's flower and produce show at Holy Cross Church on Monday, May 25; this is for primary school-age children so we are hoping for lots of imagination in the categories:

Each category will be divided into Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 – apart from Best Victoria Sponge, where it is Key stage 2 only.

The cost is 50p per entry per child. There is no limit to how many categories you enter.

This entry money will be given to charities that have been picked by local schoolchildren.

Flowers in a Jam Jar: Any flowers in any jam jar, you can choose to decorate the jar or leave it plain! Please don't pick wildflowers: perhaps it would be a good idea to ask a grownup what kind of flowers can be picked!

Animal made out of a vegetable: kindly sponsored by Norma Davies Opticians.

This is going to be a lot of fun – choose a vegetable (any kind) and carve, peel, decorate any way you like to make it look like an animal. Please note that it does NOT have to be life-sized…

Ugliest Vegetable: kindly sponsored by Infographics.

We all know that most vegetables taste scrummy, but some of them don't look particularly tasty when you see them in the shop. You have to find the ugliest looking vegetable you can!

You can add your own decorations to turn it into a really ugly looking member of the vegetable family!

Best Victoria Sponge: kindly sponsored by The Elephant and Bun.

Get out your pinny and get baking! What do you think makes a Victoria Sponge special? The jam? The sponge? The cream? You can decide what ingredients go in!

Bring along the whole cake, as in this case it is important how it looks.

The judges will be tasting a slice or two of this one, so make sure it's super tasty!

Garden in a shoe box: kindly sponsored by Liquorice Laces.

Find a shoe box and then build a garden inside it; we like the idea of you using natural materials that you find outside, but you are more than welcome to make your own as well! Lots of great sized empty boxes available at Liquorice Laces!

Best decorated cupcake: kindly sponsored by Cakes for Celebrations.

How adventurous can you be with the humble cupcake? You could always have a look online for some inspiration. The cupcakes need to be homemade. Only one cupcake per entry, so make it a great one!

Picture made of sweets: You can really let your imagination go wild with this one – choose any (real) sweets that you want and make a picture out of them. No bigger than A4, please!

Greeting card out of pressed flowers: kindly sponsored by The Pencil Case.

There are some very pretty spring flowers out at the moment: preserve a couple by pressing them and making a lovely greeting card of your choice, one card per entry!

Tallest cress: Quite simple! Grow cress as tall as you can – and see if yours is the tallest!

Superhero head out of a potato: kindly sponsored by Fich and Ramous.

Lots of fun to be had making up your own superhero using the good old spud! You can add whatever detail you need using any materials you like. For extra fun why not give your superhero head a superhero name?

Best Cucumber carving: kindly sponsored by Vale Tourism Association.

Grab the humble cucumber and see what you can create, whether you want to do a carving of St Paul's Cathedral or just carve your name – it's up to you. You can add accessories using any materials you like!

Spaghetti Sculpture: kindly sponsored by Michael Lieberman.

Make sure the spaghetti is uncooked before you start creating a structure using just the pasta and glue – no accessories or other materials!

• *Details you will need for the day:*
Monday, May 25
Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge
Open 10am
Entries close at 12pm
Judging to take place 12.30pm – 1.30pm
Collect your entries from 2pm
Close 3pm

Money will have to be paid on entry, just look out for one of our helpers who can guide you to where you need to place your entry, you will then be given a short form to fill out with your name and number on it. Once judging has finished, you are free to take your entry home!

There will be prizes for those who come first in their category.

The top three winners in each category will receive a small gift – and don't forget – each category is split into Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 – except the Victoria Sponge category!

If you have any queries at all, email tracy@cowbridgefoodanddrink.org

• ***For an up-to-date list of activities, follow us on Facebook and Twitter.***

DISABLED PARKING AND PARK & RIDE

AS in previous years, we have worked with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to secure extra disabled parking.

Unfortunately this year, due to forces out of the festival's control, there are not as many as we'd hoped, but there will be more than the usual offering at the Town Hall car park.

However, as this area is not now in our jurisdiction, we will not be stewarding with volunteers as in previous years, to try to accommodate as many blue badge holders as possible.

Instead, there will be enforcement officers on site, making sure that these are used appropriately.

Therefore, please ensure that you display your badge clearly, if you are lucky enough to get a space.

We would stress that the Comprehensive park and ride site is on a level surface, with good-sized bays and the P&R buses are wheelchair compliant; so suggest trying this site if at all possible, to avoid disappointment in the centre of town.

We would advise all visitors to use the Park and Ride if at all able to do so.

This is entirely free and very efficient and regular and will deposit you in the centre of Cowbridge, to experience the delights of the town and festival.

We should also say that with enforcement officers in Cowbridge that weekend, you should pay special attention to parking restrictions in general.

We are sorry for any inconvenience, but this is entirely out of our control.

Vale of Glamorgan

Farmers' Market – Fresh from the Field

Local Quality Value

Delighted to be part of the Cowbridge Food Festival, why not come and visit us throughout the year:

Arthur John's Car Park, Cowbridge 1st & 3rd Saturday of every month

Westbourne School, Penarth,4th Saturday of every month

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Cowbridge store would like to thank all the local people old and new customers for all their support.

Please join us for our celebrations and enter our free raffle the weekend commencing 22nd May.
Tel: 01446 774570

Young musicians do the Vale proud!

Pictured left to right are : Jack Ollier, Caitlin Ellis, Tabitha Hughes, Isobelle Lambert.

YOUNG musicians from Barry, all of whom are students with Jo Weaving LWCMD, are celebrating after a very successful weekend at this year's South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians.

In the intermediate woodwind class, Jack Ollier was placed first on his recorder, playing a piece titled 'Coffee and Croissant, which had a distinct French feel to the music, and third on his clarinet playing a piece called 'Poco Adagio', which means 'a little slow'.

Jack then went on to be placed also in the Intermediate (a) piano class where he performed a humorous piece by Villa Lobos.

Isobelle Lambert was placed second in the Intermediate Piano (b) class, and performed a characterful Prelude, while Tabitha Hughes was placed third in the same class and played a jazzy number called 'Moody Prawn Blues'.

Caitlin Ellis took part in the year-4 piano class where she received a glowing report and a special complement for her use of the pedal in her traditional piece, 'The Linconshire Poache'.

In other successes, Jemima Whiffen passed her grade 2 piano with merit and Jack Ollier passed his grade 5 theory, also with merit. Manon Pearce sat her piano prep test.

Fourteen students took part in a music making afternoon, organised by Jo, where each student was given the opportunity to perform two pieces to a selected audience made up of friends and family.

Performances were given on a variety of instruments, including the piano, descant recorder, clarinet, trumpet and saxophone.

A BLOOMING GREAT TEA PARTY!

MARIE CURIE has renewed its appeal for people to host a Blooming Great Tea Party to raise funds for the charity between June 20-29.

Karen Jones, fundraiser at the hospice, said: "We know that our local community enjoys holding these fun events to help support Marie Curie and hope that both previous and new hosts sign up to support the charity.

"All the money raised will help Marie Curie provide expert care, guidance and support to help people living with a terminal illness get the most from the time they have left in their own homes and in the Marie Curie Hospice Cardiff and the Vale in Penarth."

Contact Karen Jones on 02920 426068, for further information.

Open Gardens in Penarth

THE annual Open Gardens Trail in Penarth is on July 24 – 25. For further information, email ann@lush.eu.com; telephone 02920 703547.

TO THE WOODS! Class was on a mission

AFTER school on April 20, Mr Bartlett and five students from Barry Comprehensive went to the woods in Porthkerry Country Park, to collect timber for the school's woodworking club.

Using only hand tools and muscle power, the students split in half an eight foot log and used a two-man crosscut saw to reduce the length of another log, so it would fit safely on the trailer.

The aim of the project is to use the timber to manufacture furniture which the park rangers can use in the lodge garden.

All the students worked really hard to complete the task and worked well as a team to manipulate the heavy logs.

The school would like to thank Country Park Ranger Mel Stewart, for supporting the project. **AC**

Elliot, Harry, Luke, Owain and Owen working on the logs.

Cardiff and Vale College
Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro

Would you like to represent your community and make a valuable contribution to education and training in your capital region?

Cardiff and Vale College [CAVC] is a centre place in the region. With a bold and ambitious vision we are transforming education and training across Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and beyond.

We are one of the largest and most innovative colleges in the country - with 20,000 learners and 1,000 staff. Our wide ranging offer covers Further Education, Higher Education, Work-Based Learning, Adult Basic Education, international programmes and a rapidly expanding bespoke service for employers. We are inspiring young people to achieve, be employable and progress; supporting adults to develop skills; and working in partnership with employers to meet their business needs. We are developing new sector-leading campuses for education and training - starting with our brand new £45m City Centre Campus in the heart of the city this summer. Through all this we are working with a vast and valued network of partners to achieve our vision and support this vibrant Capital Region.

CAVC is seeking members to join our board to fulfil the requirements of our new Governance structure. There are several roles available with varying commitments. These are:

- **Governors**
- **Committee Members**
- **Community Board Members** [for both our Cardiff Community Board and Vale Community Board]

We are looking for community representation at the heart of our Board.
All roles are voluntary, with remuneration for expenses.

Join us. Find out more or apply: cavc.ac.uk/joinourboard

Closing date for applications: 20.05.15

Hoffech chi gynrychioli eich cymuned a gwneud cyfraniad gwerthfawr at addysg a hyfforddiant yn rhanbarth eich prifddinas?

Mae Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro [CCAF] yn lle canolog yn y rhanbarth. Gyda gweledigaeth feiddgar ac uchelgeisiol, rydym yn trawsnewid addysg a hyfforddiant ledled Caerdydd, Bro Morgannwg a thu hwnt.

Ni yw un o'r colegau mwyaf a mwyaf arloesol yn y wlad - gydag 20,000 o ddysgwyr a 1,000 o staff. Mae ein darpariaeth eang yn cynnwys Addysg Bellach, Addysg Uwch, Dysgu Seiliedig ar Waith, Addysg Sylfaenol i Oedolion, rhaglenni rhyngwladol a gwasanaeth pwrpasol i gyflogwyr sy'n ehangu'n gyflym. Rydym yn ysbrydoli pobl ifanc i gyflawni, cael eu cyflogi a sicrhau cynnydd; yn cefnogi oedolion i ddatblygu sgiliau; ac yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â chyflogwyr i ddiwallu eu hanghenion busnes. Rydym yn datblygu campysau blaengar newydd ar gyfer addysg a hyfforddiant - gan ddechrau gyda'n campws newydd sbon gwerth £45m yng Nghanol y Ddinas yr haf yma. Drwy gyfrwng hyn i gyd, rydym yn gweithio gyda rhwydwaith helaeth a gwerthfawr o bartneriaid er mwyn cyflawni ein gweledigaeth a chefnogi'r Brifddinas Ranbarth llwyddiannus hwn.

Mae CCAF yn chwilio am aelodau i ymuno â'n bwrdd i gyflawni gofynion ein strwythur Llywodraethu newydd. Mae sawl rôl ar gael gyda'r ymrwymiad yn amrywio. Maent fel a ganlyn:

- **Llywodraethwyr**
- **Aelodau Pwyllgor**
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Rydym yn chwilio am gynrychiolaeth gymunedol i chwarae rhan ganolog ar ein bwrdd.
Mae pob rôl yn wirfoddol, gyda thâl ar gyfer costau.

Ymunwch â ni. Rhagor o wybodaeth neu i ymgeisio: cavc.ac.uk/ymunwch

Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer y ceisiadau yw: 20.05.15

'REWARD FOR SUCCESS'

ON the assumption that Marco is too busy running his successful business, and as a regular and satisfied customer of his cafe, I am driven to reply to the facile comments of your correspondent, Mr J Davies (The GEM, May 7).

He accuses Marco of obtaining too much coverage in the local media and says that other Island traders are losing out and that they too "deserve the same exposure".

The reality is as follows: Marco works very hard to promote his business and takes every opportunity to obtain publicity. This benefits not just himself, but other Island traders.

He was fortunate to be featured prominently in a successful TV series, but so were other traders. This brought media coverage worth hundreds of thousands of pounds to all of the Island. But you can't depend on this lasting. It will eventually be history and new initiatives will be required to keep Barry Island in people's minds and persuade them to continue to visit.

As for concerns of the other traders. I doubt that the owners of the recently-opened Bay5 coffee house, which has transformed what was becoming a bit of an eyesore into a very attractive venue, or a company like Cadwaladers would open a coffee parlour within 50 yards of Marco's, if they were concerned with the publicity efforts of Marco, who is also a very active member of the Island Traders Association.

Mr Davies is worried that more and more tables are being set out by Marco. This is because he is successful in attracting more customers. Would the letter writer prefer to see rows of empty shuttered shops and a derelict fairground?

Would Mr Danter invest millions of pounds in the Island if he didn't believe it was already a success and had even greater potential for the future?

Don Evans, Barry.

Green Party thanks voters

AS the Vale Green Party candidate, please allow me to express my thanks to all the people who voted for me last Thursday.

My campaign was severely hampered by the fact that I had to go into hospital at the end of March and was effectively out of action for four weeks thereafter.

Nevertheless, the Green Party doubled its vote and during the course of the campaign, it was evident that environmental issues in the Vale were of concern to lots of people throughout the county.

The campaign strengthened the support for the Green Party in the Vale and it is the party's intention to build on that support.

We plan to establish an active Vale Green Party group which will campaign to promote, for instance, clean energy developments in the Vale – and to promote the Green message that the future well-being of the area depends upon radical changes to the way we approach economics, politics, and social welfare.

Thank you again to the voters who supported the Green Party. We look forward to your continuing support in the future and to that support growing, as more people recognize the need for urgent action to avoid the worst excesses of global warming.

Alan Armstrong, Penarth.

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS HIT THE BEACHES TO CLEAN UP LITTER

MORE than 150 volunteers from Peny y Bont Surf and Life Saving Club and local McDonald's restaurants joined a clean-up event in the Vale, as part of Keep Wales Tidy's Clean Coast Week.

They cleared unwanted litter from the beach at Ogmore-by-Sea in the third annual Clean Coast Week, sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, which coincided with Clean Europe Week.

At the event, which is one of over 100 that took place in Wales as part of Clean Coast Week, 50 bags of litter were collected from the popular beach at Ogmore-by-Sea.

Group for older dancers perform

DYFFRYN GARDENS at St Nicholas in the Vale will host Striking Attitudes, a professional dance theatre group based in Cardiff, on May 23.

The group create performance and opportunities for older dancers, both professional and community and will be performing tableau-style choreography inspired by the house, gardens and history of Dyffryn.

This performance is part of the Gwanwyn festival, a month-long festival held across Wales every May to celebrate creativity in older age. Gwanwyn Festival is supported by Arts Council of Wales and Welsh Government.

Caroline Lamb, choreographer and artistic director of Striking Attitudes says: "It's fantastic for us to be a part of the Gwanwyn festival and have the opportunity to perform in the atmospheric surroundings of Dyffryn House."

Striking Attitudes will be performing in Dyffryn House on May 23 between 12pm and 3.30pm. This is a free performance, but normal admission prices apply.

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The inside of the roof is a plaster-boarded to keep an airy and modern 'vaulted ceiling' feel, meaning it can be finished with down-lighters or pendant lights. With the option to add glazed panels to the Livin Roof, it's even possible to keep a view of the heavens!

CENTURIONS LOSE IN CLOSE MATCH

SULLY Centurions' 1st XI got the league season underway when they hosted Rogerstone Welfare at Burnham Avenue, eventually losing in a close fought encounter.

New boys Santosh Singh (20) and Sanjeev Bidurguppa (11) took the score along to 31 before Santosh fell lbw to Ramji. Sanjeev suffered the same fate, being the first of Greening's three victims with the score on 42.

Tom Davies came and went without troubling the scorers. With the demise of Pavel for 15 and skipper Lloyd Bruce for 8, Centurions looked in trouble with the score on 59 for 5 after 18 overs.

This brought together the third newcomer Sandeep Shokeen (41) and Patel (73) who shared a century stand to put the home side back on track.

Ben Spear hit a whirlwind 36 before departing to leave Centurions on 223 for 7 in the 46th over. But, although Sully gained maximum batting points, the last three wickets fell for just 4 runs to leave a final score of 227 all out.

After tea Centurions' opening bowlers restricted Rogerstone to 62 for 3 after 16 overs, but a century fourth wicket partnership between Holdaway (107 not out) and Jones (60) swung the game round in the visitors' favour.

In spite of a couple of wickets each for Shae Ellis (2 for 42) and Sanjeev (2 for 21) along with Nathan Cuddihy's 1 for 35, Rogerstone reached the target in the 48th over.

Sully Centurions 227 all out, Rogerstone Welfare 229 for 5.

SECONDS LOSE OUT IN SPITE OF PETER'S HEROICS

The seconds arrived at Rogerstone with just seven players, thanks to last minute drop outs and unavailability.

The home side sportingly lent three fielders, for which Centurions were extremely grateful. After winning the toss and electing to bat first, Rogerstone openers Trinder and Robson took the score along to 50 before Robson (16) fell to a fine caught and bowled by Peter Thomas.

Trinder continued to play his shots and had added a further 74 with Jamil when Steve Morse bowled Jamil for 24 - this was Steve's first league wicket.

Mick Fisher took two wickets for 32, having Berry stumped by Lewis Pyke for 6 and Nel lbw for a duck.

The innings closed with opener Trinder hitting exactly 100 for Rogerstone to finish on 173 for 4. Sully were left to ponder on what might have been when they looked back on Trinder being dropped in the second over before he had got going.

Sully's innings took on a similar shape, with Dave Sylvester and Peter Thomas reaching 50 for the first wicket, when Sylvester was adjudged lbw for 4.

Thomas was joined by Steve Morse, who rode his luck in between some hefty shots and was on 17 when he was bowled by Berry with the score on 110.

Thomas continued finding the boundary but he lost Lewis Pyke (0) and Luke Burnett (2) before falling victim to an excellent caught and bowled by Reed for a marvellous 102, his very first century for the club, with the score on 141.

The last wicket pair of Iwan Thomas and Mick Fisher had added another 11 when Iwan became Berry's third victim when he was bowled for 9, leaving the score on 152 for 6.

A great game of cricket, played in excellent spirit.

Rogerstone Welfare II 173 for 4, Sully Centurions II 152 all out

This week the 1st XI are at home to Ponthir and the 2nds are away to Ponthir's 2nd XI, and on Sunday, Centurions are at home to Pentyrch CC in the Davidstow Village Cup.

Please can all players contact Lloyd Bruce (1st XI) and Dave Sylvester (2nd XI) to confirm availability.

All players are reminded that nets are held at Burnham Avenue on Thursdays, with a 6pm start.

MF

Withdrawals cost hockey veterans dear as they slip to heavy loss

An unfortunate rash of late withdrawals left Penarth Hockey Club's veterans side up against it as they travelled west for a spring fixture with Swansea, eventually going down 7-1.

Despite having started the summer hockey season with a tough loss at home to familiar foes Whitchurch, Penarth refused to take an easy route towards restoring their pride, with a trip to Swansea pitching them against one of the best veterans' sides in the region.

The Bears' task was not made any simpler as a number of players were forced to pull out of the squad late in the week, leaving a bare 11 to take on a younger and more practiced Swansea team at King George V playing fields.

With the majority of the absentees coming from the defence, goalkeeper Jason Harris faced a busy time between the sticks from the very start of the morning encounter, and the home side duly wasted little time in opening the scoring.

As Penarth struggled to clear their lines, particularly on secondary balls and rebounds, Swansea kept the pressure in the visitors' half, gradually increasing the score to 4-0 by the interval, despite the best efforts of captain Nick Pratt and fellow defenders Graeme Jones and Ian Smith.

Unable to make any significant changes to the line-up, Penarth resolved to tidy up their game in the second half, and the performance was indeed improved, with black-and-blue midfield general Rob Harrison instrumental in creating more attacking opportunities to add to a couple of first half penalty corner chances.

Unfortunately for the Vale side, Swansea struck against the early run of play to extend their advantage to five goals before Penarth finally made their efforts count as Craig Llewellyn crashed home a penalty corner strike.

Llewellyn was denied a second goal when a corner deflected into the roof of the net by the home goalkeeper was deemed to have been travelling too high to have struck the backboard, and a series of eccentric umpiring decisions subsequently combined to frustrate both sides in what was an otherwise friendly encounter.

Despite the bonhomie, however, Swansea, weren't about to show any mercy to their opponents and added a couple of late goals to take the final score to 7-1.

With no league fixtures until the resumption of hostilities in September, Penarth will continue to focus on its veterans' XI throughout the summer, building up to the inauguration of its new home pitch at Stanwell School later in the year.

A return fixture against Whitchurch gives the Vale side an immediate chance to restore some honour before it makes a number of tournament appearances in the coming months.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from: club secretary Dave Stevens via d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

News from Brynhill ladies

ON April 29, Helene Cooke organized quiz night in memory of Adrian Cooke.

Over £800 was raised to enable Helene to take part in a trek in Costa Rica in aid of Marie Currie Nurses.

COMPETITION RESULTS:

March 21, Easter Egg Competition: Winner Rose Pitman 18pts, runner-up Jan Tattersall 16pts; April 7, Rabbits and Tigers: winners Glynis Gould and Helena Coombes 79.5 nett, runners-up Di Tapscott and Linda Hewlett 81 nett; April 14, Jo Whitehouse Cup: winner Gemma Evans 37pts, runner-up Jo Kirkpatrick 37pts.

Gran's Trophy: winner Jo Kirkpatrick 35pts over the back nine from Linda Hewlett; April 21 G.U.W. Challenge Bowls: silver winner Robbie Lee- 72pts, bronze winner Claire Herbert 76pts; April 28 Junior Gold Cup 4BBB: winners Olwen Thomas and Andrea Page 53pts, runner-up Jan Robertson and Sue Holland 44pts over back nine from Glynis Gould and Miggs Codd; May 5 Bob Hope Rose Bowl: bronze winner Olwen Thomas 39pts, runner-up Jane Phillips 31pts.

CH

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for May 11:

1st Irene Thomas & Graham Jones 66.67%, 2nd Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 64.88%, 3rd John Evans & Steve Burgoyne 63.10%.

LE

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newydd

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Well maintained refurbished three bedroom semi-detached bungalow and garage comprising Hallway Lounge/Diner, new fitted Kitchen, Rear Hall, new fitted Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Parking to the front and side gate leads to enclosed rear garden. Ref 803D

LLANTWIT MAJOR £162,500

Modern Three Bedroom End of Link House comprising Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Allocated Parking Space. Low maintenance garden to front and enclosed rear garden. Ref 809D

BOVERTON £400,000

Formerly two 18th century cottages this three bedroom property comprises a Reception Hall, Sitting Room, Central Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, two luxury Bathrooms, Conservatory, Detached Garage. Natural timbers oak and pinewood throughout with local stone fireplace and stone walls. Gas central heating. PVC Georgian glazed windows. Mature Gardens with southerly and westerly aspect. Freehold Ref 816D

LLANTWIT MAJOR £189,950

Modern three bedroom detached house with integral garage comprising Reception Hall, Cloakroom/WC, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Garden to front paved for parking. Enclosed rear Garden. Ref 817D

LLANTWIT MAJOR £187,500

Modern three bedroom detached house situated in a cul de sac comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Paved driveway and garden to front and rear. £187,500 Ref 819D

LLANTWIT MAJOR £177,500

Modern Georgian style three bedroom mid terrace house with garage and conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gardens to front with uninterrupted views overlooking the heritage coastline. Enclosed rear garden. Freehold Ref 820D

ST ATHAN VILLAGE £149,950

Established well maintained modern three bedroom double fronted semi-detached house comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Cloakroom, Modern fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and garden to front and good size garden to the rear. Ref 821D

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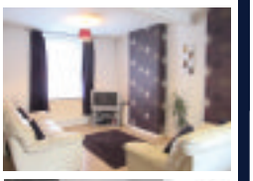
GROVE ESTATES

RICHARD STREET, BARRY

- 2 bedroom mid terrace property in a central location
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Lean-to for storage
- Low maintenance garden to rear
- Offered with no chain

£107,000



LLEWELLYN STREET, BARRY

- 2 bed mid terrace property in popular area of Barry
- Within walking distance to local schools & shops
- Well presented throughout
- Courtyard garden to the rear
- Offered freehold and would make an ideal 1st purchase

£99,950

BEATRICE ROAD, BARRY

- 3 bedroom bay fronted Victorian property
- Walking distance to town centre
- Well presented throughout
- Front & rear gardens
- Situated in quiet no through road
- Ideal 1st purchase or family home
- Conveniently located close to transport links in & out of Barry

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CROSS STREET, BARRY

- 3 double bedroom mid terrace property close to the town centre
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Low maintenace garden to rear
- In need of works throughout
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£89,950

DYFNALLT ROAD, BARRY

- 3 bed end of terrace property
- Garden to front with a good sized garden to the rear
- In need of work throughout
- Would make an ideal investment property
- Offered freehold

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Darts league celebrates its 50th anniversary

THANK YOU very much to Councillor Michael Mason, Mayor of Llantwit Major Town Council, and Councillor Gwyn John for helping us to celebrate the recent 50th anniversary of the Llantwit Major & District Darts League.

They both passed on their thanks to the league and thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere in the room during their time with us.

The committee would like to thank Justin Giosanu for cooking very enjoyable chicken and chips that went down a treat with the members present. Thanks very much to the hospitality of the Rugby Club on our many function nights; notably Matthew Mazzitelli who always does his very best in support of the LMDDL.

Thank you to everybody who supported the Cure Kayti appeal which raised a fantastic £310 over the four semi-final and final nights and presentation night.

Special thanks to Julie Cheal and Gaynor Dale for selling the raffle tickets at the presentation night and to Jean and Sheryn who expertly organise and manage our singles tournaments.

The LMDDL would also like to thanks all the players that have graced the league over the last 50 years; thanks for the memories.

Congratulations to the members and teams detailed below who won the 10 competitions that are competed for in the LMDDL.

Ladies singles: Tanya Daw, pairs: Tanya Daw and Donna Lisa Ward, threes: Chick, Jean and Beth, mixed pairs: Allan Morgan and mum to be Becky Evans.

Gents singles: Iain Austin, pairs: Steve Davie and Dai Sawyer, threes: Ritchie Sinclair, John Price, Seb Harris (Steve Davie), Alec McGaw.

Golden Cups, Sir Cennydd - Rugby Club 'A2', Eddie Meredith - Wenvoe Arms, Champion of Champions - Rugby Club 'A2'.

Final 'A' league table: Rugby Club 'A2' 190, Wenvoe Arms 169, Kings Head 'A1' 161, Golden Cups 159, Shoes Peterston 155, Fox & Hounds 141, Blacksmith Arms 130, Rugby Club 'A1' 125, Four Bells 117, Lamb & Flag 115, Tudor Jay 92, Golf Club 85, Kings Head 'A2' 77.

Final 'C' league table: Lamb & Flag 'C1' 220, Lamb & Flag 'C2' 192, Kings Head 'C1' 167, Shoes St Athan 166, Golf Club 'C1' 162, Golf Club 'C2' 158,

Kings Head 'C2' 116, Rugby Club Lions 51.

DMC

Llantwit Major & District darts league celebrated their 50th anniversary recently.

Lower Machen hosts last fixture of the season

THE South Wales and Monmouthshire point-to-point season comes to an end with the Gelligaer Farmers fixture at the popular Lower Machen racecourse on Saturday.

Racing gets under way with the members' race at 2pm and of the 11 entries the Marc Barber-trained Gallaflynn, who is usually at his best at the time of the year, seems best.

Barber has also entered Dash For Cash while Paul Webb's Super Villan is another to note.

There are 19 entries for the confined and these include the Amber Griffiths trained Harpsy Cord, the first of John Mathias' super six wins at the Banwen Miners meeting on May Day Bank Holiday Monday.

The danger to Harpsy Cord could come from the Michael Bowen trained Mister Bricolage who has been in good form this season.

Heavenstown, who only got as far as the 11th fence when contesting a three horse members' race here a fortnight ago, should also be considered.

The mixed open race has attracted 18 entries and these include the prolific Rosies Peacock, Sir Du Bearn, Full Trottle and Cock If The Rock.

EVAN'S LUDLOW WINNER

Llancarfan's Evan Williams, who is the leading trainer at Ludlow Racecourse, saddled another winner at the Welsh borders racecourse on Sunday when his eight-year-old Bullet Street, partnered by Paul Moloney, landed the My Totepool.Com Handicap Chase.

Bullet Street, a 11-2 chance, shot home nearly four lengths ahead of My Brother Sylvest who at one time was trained by Pyle's David Brace.

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Josh signs for Ipswich

BRIDGEND'S Josh Yorwerth has signed for Ipswich Town after being released from Cardiff City.

The Wales under-21 defender has successfully completed a trial with the east Anglian club, and could find himself playing in the Premier League next season if Mick McCarthy's team manage to negotiate the play-offs, with their second leg against Norwich to be played on Saturday before the play-off final at Wembley on May 25.

Josh (20) was on target for Wales' under-21s in their win over Bulgaria in March.

GARETH JAMIESON

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NEW
BERYL ROAD, BARRY
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£141,950

NEW
HERBERT STREET, BARRY
Immaculate semi detached, refurbished, WC cloakroom, living room, open plan kitchen/diner with bifold doors opening to decked terrace, three bedrooms (master ensuite), family bathroom, driveway, garage & gym, immaculate presentation. ER=D.
£169,950

NEW
HEOL ERYR MOR, BARRY
Mid terraced modern, stunning sea views, living room, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms (ensuite), family bathroom, garage/parking, viewing essential.
£149,500

NEW
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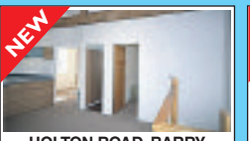
Pre-owned apartment, one bedroom, open plan living/kitchen, situated on 2nd floor, security entry system, CCTV monitoring to all floors, gymnasium and laundry room, parking with secure electric gates, westend location, no chain. ER=D.
£94,950

NEW PRICE
GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced bay fronted, through living room, WC cloakroom, kitchen/diner, 3 bedrooms, spacious family bathroom, 23ft basement room, no chain.
£175,000

NEW
RICHARD STREET, BARRY
Refurbished mid terraced, traditional - town centre, through living room, replacement 2015 fitted kitchen, 2 doubled bedrooms, family shower room, enclosed rear garden, UPVC - DG/GCH via combi. ER=D.
£119,950

NEW
DUNRAVEN STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced, living room, ground floor bathroom, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, UPVC DG - GC heating via combi, in walking distance to numerous beaches & Porthceri Park, ER=D.
£127,950

NEW
HOLTON ROAD, BARRY
Ground floor, luxury apartment, contemporary living, two bedrooms, open plan kitchen, low maintenance courtyard garden, no chain.
£94,950


NEW
HOLTON ROAD, BARRY
Luxury first floor apartment, contemporary living, open plan kitchen/living room, two bedrooms, beamed ceiling/glass balustrading, no chain - viewing essential.
£94,950

NEW
SSTC 1st Viewing
THE GROVE, BARRY
Mid terraced property, traditional Edwardian, spacious living, living room, sitting room, extended newly fitted kitchen/dining room, 4 bedrooms, new family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, views toward Romilly Park. ER=D.
£254,950

NEW
CORA STREET, BARRY
Two double bedrooms & box room/study, mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, utility area, WC cloak, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden. ER=E.
£109,950

NEW PRICE
OAKFIELD ROAD, BARRY
Four bedroomed semi detached, living/dining room, WC cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, 1st floor: 3 beds, family bathroom/ 2nd floor: dorma bedroom. Enclosed rear garden, long driveway/garage. No chain. ER=E.
£214,950

NEW
FERN DRIVE, BARRY
Modern semi detached, 2 bedrooms, living room, enclosed rear garden, parking to the front, ER=D.
£111,999

SSTC
CANON STREET, BARRY
Victorian mid terraced, three reception rooms, three double bedrooms, bathroom with bath & shower cubicle, seperate WC cloakroom, easy walks to numerous beaches, viewing essential.
£169,950

NEW PRICE
SHERBOURNE CLOSE, BARRY
Detached dwelling, cul de sac position, living/diner, conservatory. WC cloakroom, three bedrooms, larger than average garden, driveway. ER=D.
£215,000

NEW PRICE
ROWAN COURT, BARRY
Refurbished throughout 2014, three bedroomed maisonette, far reaching sea views, GC Heating via combi 2014 & replacement kitchen, 26ft lounge, enclosed balcony, minutes walk to Romilly Park, no chain. ER=E.
£139,950

NEW PRICE
GLAN HAFREN, BARRY
Luxury living on the edge of the beach, three bedroomed apartment (previously two), wet room and bathroom fully tiled with marble from floor to ceiling. 2 balconies with panoramic views, 2 garages and ample further parking. Viewing recommended.
£259,950

NEW
TORDOFF WAY, BARRY
Three bedrooms, semi detached bungalow, well presented throughou, living room, shared driveway, designated parking to rear, far reaching sea views, side access.
£164,950

HEOL SIRHWI, BARRY
Two double bedrooms, semi detached bungalow, viewing highly recommended, living/dining room, well presented, cul de sac position, driveway providing ample parking, garage- no chain. EPC=D.
£154,950

NEW
FIELD VIEW ROAD, BARRY
Semi detached, living room leading to dining room, modern fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, first floor shower room, driveway leading to garage, enclosed garden, no chain.
£132,500

WINCHESTER CLOSE, BARRY
Modern semi-detached, living room, kitchen overlooking rear, three bedrooms, bathroom - WC, side access - no chain. EPC=D.
£84,950

GLAN Y MOR, BARRY
2nd floor apartment, 2 bedrooms - ensuite, approx. 16ft living room, balcony with water views, gas central heating, offered with no chain, designated parking. EPC=C.
£99,950

COURTENAY ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditinoal, 2 seperate reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, 2 double bedrooms, 1st floor family bathroom, in need of some modernising, no chain. ER=E.
£80,000

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NEW

Richard Street
Barry **£105,000**
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Town Centre Location
Three Bedrooms
Living/Dining Room
No Chain

NEW

Porthkerry Road
Barry **£170,000**
NO CHAIN
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Three Bedrooms
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Two Reception Rooms

NEW PRICE

Heol Broadlands
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Detatched Home
3 Bedrooms
Open Plan Living/Dining
Fitted Kitchen
NO CHAIN

Dock View Road
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Duplex Apartment
Two Bedrooms
Lounge with a mezzanine level
Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating
NO CHAIN

Heol Y Dryw
Barry **£275,000**
Detatched
Four Bedrooms
Sea Views
Conservatory
NO CHAIN

Heol Y Gaer
Barry **£154,950**
SEA VIEWS
Two Double Bedrooms
Living Room, Kitchen
Allocated Parking
Situated On The Knap

Heol Y Nant
Barry **£127,000**
Semi Detached
Three Double Bedrooms
Two Reception Rooms
Off Road Parking
Cul De Sac Position

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Cul De Sac Location
EPC Rating:D

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West End Location
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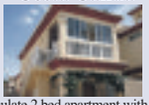

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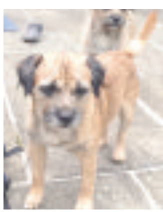

Our border terrier has been missing on Newton Dunes since Monday evening. If you have seen him or have any information please call 01656 788281.

GENEROUS REWARD

Family Notices

MANNING
(Formerly Taylor) Audrey June

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Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Glastone Road, Barry until her funeral service in the chapel on Friday, May 22 at 11.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 12.30pm.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

SCOTT
Harry

Peacefully on May 5 at Llandough Hospital. Harry (aged 89), beloved husband of the late Mary and also treasured partner of Grace. Loving father to Peter, Stuart, Kevin, Janet, Heather and their partners Kearen, Pam, Ksenja, Dave and John. Much loved and adored grandfather and great grandfather.

"HE HAS CLIMBED HIS LAST LADDER"

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at All Saints Church, Barry on Friday, May 22 at 1.30pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

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BEVAN
Clarice

On Thursday May 7, in her 101st year and resolute in her Faith, Clarice L. Bevan, late of Bryn Road, Tondu. Widow of the late and much loved Jim, beloved mother of James and his partner, Daphne, dearest "Paw Paw Jim" to Stella, Leslie, Harold, Jenny and Phillip.

Funeral at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, May 18 at 2.45pm. Family flowers only but donations welcomed to Albert Edward, Prince of Wales Court, Penylan Avenue, Porthcawl, CF36 3LY, where Clarice received such abundant love and care in her closing years. (Cheques payable to "RMBI" should be sent to the Matron, Mrs. Alyson Owen-Neill). **Da was, da a ffyddlon**.

YANDALL
Edwin (Ted)

Peacefully after a long illness at Llandough Hospital, Penarth on May 7. Ted, former employee of Western Welsh bus company, dearly beloved husband of Margaret, much loved dad of Alison and Stephen, adored granddad of Grace and Edward.

***Ted will be sadly missed by all his loving family and friends*.**

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the chapel on Friday, May 22 at 3pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 4pm. Family cut flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

REES Ian

21 June 1976 - 18 May 2010

Five years since we said goodbye as you gifted sight and life to others, we are all very proud of this, a husband, father, son, uncle and best 'bruver' in the world.

Primus Inter Pares

The family of the late

Teresa (Teri) Ann Jones

would like to thank all who gave so generously to Marie Curie Hospice Holme Towers on her behalf.

The sum raised was £1,748.17, which is a wonderful tribute to a lovely lady.

CLEMO
Audrey Winifred
(NÉE DONEGAN)

Sailed away peacefully on May 7, 2015 on her 86th birthday at Holme Towers, Penarth. Beloved wife to the late William (Bill), much loved mother and mother-in-law to Lesley and Keith, Ian and Sarah and Boof and Jo. A wonderful Nana Og to Sophie, Bethan, Louis and Freya and adored sister to Maureen (Mo).

Audrey will also be greatly missed by all her extended family, including a great many nephews and nieces, and all her very good friends, especially those who have been so good to her during her last few months - your kindness will not be forgotten.

Also, the family would like to extend their grateful thanks to Ward A7 UHW, and most importantly Holme Towers, who cared for her in her final weeks with such care and compassion.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Thursday May 21. Service in the chapel at 12 noon, afterwards cremation at Barry Crematorium. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

JONES
Richard

After a short illness on May 1, Richard of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved brother of Jane and uncle of Anna and Emma and her husband Kevin. He was a great-uncle to Owen and Rhys and will be sadly missed.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the service in Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, May 18 at 11am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to Greyhound Rescue Wales c/o the Funeral Home. No black to be worn by request.

ANDERSON
Luke Jacob (AKA 3D1)

Suddenly on May 3, Luke aged 21 years of Llantwit Major. Cherished son of Kev and Deb, loving brother to Zoe and her partner Ben, adored uncle to Logan, Keeley and Bump. A devoted and deeply loved partner to Charlie and a much loved grandson to Ros and Pete Taylor.

Luke will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him.

Funeral service on Thursday, May 21 at Coychurch Crematorium at 11am (where all please meet). Immediate family flowers only please, all enquiries and donations for either Breast Cancer or British Heart Foundation may be forwarded to the funeral director, W.A. Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1SG.

Please wear what you feel comfortable in.

NICHOLLS
John (Nick)

Suddenly but peacefully on May 11 at Llandough Hospital, with his devoted family at his bedside. Nick, aged 83, well known for his time as a builder and haulage contractor. A loving dad, grampy and great grampy who will be greatly missed.

Resting at the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, May 18 at 10am. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home or if desired donations may be made at the service to Velindre Hospital in memory of Nick.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Services, 01446 407962.

GINGELL
Roger Mervyn

Suddenly passed away Tuesday, May 5. Roger, aged 64, was a wonderful husband to Gillian, loving father to Michael, Matthew and Thomas. Devoted brother, caring uncle and will be very sadly missed by all.

The funeral will be held on Tuesday, May 19 at 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only at the funeral, however if desired donations can be made to Diabetes UK.

Explore The GEM online
barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
porthcawl-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk

Mascotte takes the top prize!

Celebrating success as Mascotte lands the trophy (and Burgee!)

ON Saturday morning, four Cutters locked out of the dock joining two other boats in the outer harbour to race from Barry to a buoy near Lundy Island.

The forecast was for light winds, but as the Pilot Cutters hoisted their sails the true force of the wind was experienced, as a near gale from the south west had raised a big sea with breaking waves.

The start at 10am proved to be exciting with Mascotte, the largest Pilot Cutter at 60 foot, first over the line, closely followed by Olga, Peggy, Jan Roelan and Dolphin. Marguerite, who sustained some damage, retired before crossing the line.

As the day progressed, The Peggy, Jan Roelan and Olga retired from the race with several crew members suffering from the heavy seas which on occasions swept right across the decks.

Mascotte carried the ebb tide as far as Ilfracombe as the wind had eased she anchored for several hours until, with a fresh wind, she rounded the Horseshoe Buoy, the first mark, just after midnight, then sailed on to a buoy off Swansea.

In the meantime, the only other boat left in the race was the 38 foot Dolphin built in 1909. She rounded the Horseshoe buoy in the early hours of the morning well behind Mascotte.

Mascotte continued up channel passing Porthkerry around 8.30am on Sunday morning and finally to the finish off Barry Harbour. The Dolphin, unable to make up his time to beat Mascotte, retired off Swansea, her home port.

At the prizegiving, the race officers Roger Donkin and Brian Dotchon presented Mark Tyndall the owner of Mascotte with a cup first raced for in 1936 and the prized Yacht Club Burgee defaced with a Golden Cockerel. **RD**

Colcot Wanderers prosper as the first Futsal Street Cup is launched in Barry

Colcot Wanderers with the trophy.

THE Barry Elim Elevates Kick project with the Vale 5x60 team, Streetgames and Communities First, recently launched the Futsal Street Cup for local teenagers.

It worked with teenagers in St Richard Gwyn and the Vale 5x60 team to host a Futsal street team Cup which was played on April 26, and introduced Brazilian football to local teens from Communities First areas.

The event at Holm View Leisure centre provided an opportunity for teenagers to play the game in a safe environment.

Around 30 young people aged between 14 and 16 took part with teams of mixed ages, and abilities. They played the game of Futsal and some were involved in volunteering during the games.

The young people organised their own teams, gave them names and fought it out for the much coveted Street Futsal Cup trophy and winners' medals.

Elevate worked with St Richard Gwyn teenagers through schools based sport mentoring to put the day together.

This is a great opportunity for local teens to participate and organise events aimed at their peers, and learn valuable life skills along the way.

We are looking to run it as an annual competition and attract more teams from the Vale to participate. We believe sport has an incredible capacity to develop young people, beyond the benefits of participation.

The event was supported by Streetgames, through which Elevate volunteers also run Doorstep clubs that coach youngsters to pay Futsal, Ultimate Frisbee and Handball, all of which are non-contact games that help develop confidence.

After a long day, players from Colcot Wanderers beat the Barry69ers to lift the first Barry Futsal Street Cup trophy.

To find out more about Elevates' work, visit www.elevatekck.org and to find out about the doorstep clubs contact Communities First and like Vale Futsal's Facebook page.

KANTZ MISRA
Elevate Project Manager

CAMELOTS' HOPES ARE DASHED

WITH two rounds still to play there were two teams fighting for the division one title.

The Cardiff Castles had a point and a half advantage over the Barry Camelots, but almost as important the Cardiff team also had a tiebreak advantage. This meant that we needed to score two points more than the Castles in our final two games.

Round 17 took place with the Castles playing the North Cardiff Woodpushers and the Camelots taking on the Aberdare Wasps. The Wasps would hold the key to the fortunes of both teams as their final game would be at home to the Castles.

The Woodpushers have a very settled team, normally using the same five players. Until recently they had title aspirations of their own and could still mathematically be crowned as champions with a big win should the Camelots drop points. The Castles won by the narrowest of margins.

The Camelots could overtake them with a big win, and our ratings suggested a big win was possible and in the previous encounter before Christmas we took all five points on offer.

Unfortunately we could not match our earlier margin but did pick up three and a half points to drag ourselves only a point behind the Castles.

Our final game is a rearranged match against the Caerphilly Kings to be played later this month. The Castles, however, have already played their final match against the Wasps.

The Castles fared better than the Camelots did a week earlier taking the match by four and a half points to a solitary half. This gives them an unassailable lead of five and a half points with the Camelots still having one match to play and only a maximum of five pooints to play for.

The Barry Bosons also have one match to play. A win for the Bosons would guarantee them at least third place and give the Barry Club both the silver and bronze places. A good effort by both teams, just not quite good enough - still there is always next season.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Romilly's revenge win over Pencoed

ON Saturday Barry Romilly first team welcomed Pencoed Bowls Club to Romilly Park in another Carruthers Shield Cup match, hoping to turn the tables on the side who beat them by one shot last year.

Following their win the previous week against Kenfig Hill Romilly were looking to improve on their performance from that game, especially on their own green.

On a breezy but sunny day which was a total transformation from the previous Saturday, Romilly began the game confidently but it was clear over the first five ends it was not going to be an easy afternoon as Pencoed matched Romilly bowl for bowl with the score level at 9-9.

The next five ends were similar to the initial five but Romilly had taken a narrow lead of three shots by the 10th end, leading 35-32.

Both sets of players were struggling to find line and length on a green renowned for being heavy and were left scratching their heads at some of the lines the woods were taking.

The game remained close but during ends 11 to 15, Romilly began to exert pressure on their opponents and went further ahead thanks mainly to the rinks of Foscolo and Cogbill who had forged clear by eight and six shots respectively, helping to put Romilly ahead by 15 shots, 56-41.

The rinks of Phillips and Wright were also playing their part, being two ahead and just one behind respectively, but both rinks played well over the last six ends to end up winning and supporting the rinks of Foscolo and Cogbill for an overall victory by 19 shots, 75-56.

Rink scores: K Mills/T Bloomfield/C Collins/F Phillips 17-13; P Gershenson/P Williams/G Trepleton/J Wright 17-15; G Eastment/R Hewitson/M Doyle/G Cogbill 19-11; J Coles/G Rees/R Jones/B Foscolo 22-17.

The next game is on Saturday at 2.30pm and is the final Carruthers Shield group game away to Rhoose where a Romilly victory will guarantee a place in the open draw. Romilly 'A' have an SVLA game at home to the Murch.

FP

Busy week for tennis club!

IT'S been a busy week for Barry's newest tennis club, Barry Community Tennis Club, based at Romilly Park.

Ladies enjoyed the launch of 'TennisTuesdays', a structured, social playing opportunity promoted by the LTA, while younger players enjoyed the ever-growing popularity of Friday night's mini and junior clubs.

Additionally, on Friday night, the club hosted the Quorn Family Tennis Cup, where 10 parent and child pairs competed in mini tennis matches for certificates and prizes, with the winning pair earning an invitation to one of this summer's grass court tournaments, where they will get a chance to play against other parent and child pairs as well as watching some of the world's best players in action.

Over the weekend, Vale Tennis Academy's Tennis in the Parks programme continued with a number of families and children taking part in the selection of sessions on offer, while there were home fixtures for the 8 and under girls team, 9 and under and 12 and under boys teams, while the 8 and under boys and 12 and under girls all travelled to away fixtures as part of the Aegon team tennis tournament.

New players are regularly being welcomed to the club and sessions will expand as demand dictates.

For more information follow the club on Facebook or Twitter, check the website, www.barryctc.co.uk, email info@barryctc.co.uk or call 07816 311263.

Barry & District league tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 8, Railway 7; Moors Boys 4, Rhoose Social 11; Wyndham Cons 9, Cadoxton Cons 6; West End Wanderers 7, Liberals 8.

League table: Liberals 227, Wyndham Cons 22,1, Cadoxton Cons 218, Moors Boys 210, West End Wanderers 209, Rhoose Social 207, West End 206, Railway 182.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Rugby Club 6, Liberals A 1; Rhoose Social A 3, Rhoose Social C 4; Cambrian Flyers 6, West End D 1; Liberals C 5, Slammers 2; Runway Club 1, Allsorts 6; Rhoosters 5, Sea View B 2; Rhoose Social B 6, King William XII 1; West End C 5, Barries Boys 2.

League table: West End C 139.5, Sea View B 131, Allsorts 124, West End D 109, Slammers 107, King William XII 106.5, Rugby Club 102.5, Rhoose Social B 98.5, Barries Boys 97, Rhoose Social A 92, Rhoosters 88.5, Rhoose Social C 85, Cambrian Flyers 73, Liberals A 70, Liberals C 66.5, Runway Club 63.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons A 3, Penarth Cons B 2; Cadoxton Cons B 3, Harbour B 2; Rhoose Social B 0, Savoy A 5; Harbour A 5, Rhoose Social C 0; Cadoxton Cons Z 2, West End C 3.

League table: Harbour B 115, Savoy A 110, Cadoxton Cons B 88, West End C 88, Cadoxton Cons Z 79, Wyndham Cons A 67, Harbour A 64, Rhoose Social B 63, Rhoose Social C 62, Penarth Cons B 56, Wyndham Cons C 50 Savoy B 48.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Market Street C 3, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Railway A 4, Market Street B 1; West End B 1, Penarth Cons D 4, Penarth Cons A 1, Services Social B 4; Railway B 2, Railway C 3; Liberators 3, Sully Sports A 2.

League table: Railway A 108, Market Street C 89, Penarth Cons D 83, Liberators 79, Market Street B 77, Railway B 77, Services Social B 75, Cadoxton Cons A 70, Penarth Cons A 66, Sully Sports A 63, *Railway C 55, West End B 53 (* = Points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk or on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'. **JW**

Bob shows age is only a number!

BUY BACK BOB, at eight the oldest horse in the Watch Racing UK On Sky 432 Novices Hurdle at Wincanton last Thursday, was another winner for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan last Thursday.

Ridden by Richard Johnson, and racing for the first time in 137 days, Buy Back Bob scored by five lengths from Proofreader and went off the 6-5 favourite in a field of six runners.

BRIAN LEE

BIG SPRING CLEAN

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13 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr** In white, 23,000 miles, 1 owner **£8,495**
09 **MERCEDES B180 Sport Diesel 2.0 CDi** In black, 76,000 miles **£8,495**
11 **FORD Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Titanium 3-Dr** In black, 27,000 miles, £20 road tax **£7,995**
58 **NISSAN Qashqai 1.6 Acentia** In met-blue, 59,000 miles, 2 owners **£7,995**
61 **RENAULT Megane 1.5 Diesel Dynamique Tomtom** In silver, 46,000 miles, sat-nav etc **£7,495**
11 **RENAULT Megane Coupe 1.5 Diesel Dynamique Tom-Tom** In black, 45,000 miles **£7,495**
13 **TOYOTA IQ VVTi** In burnt orange, 14,000 miles, 1 owner, low running costs **£6,995**
12 **SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZ3 5-Dr** In met-red, 19,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,995**
12 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE 5-Dr Automatic** in grasshopper green, 20,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,995**
59 **VW Golf 1.4S 5-Dr** In met grey, 41,000 miles, low running costs **£6,995**
59 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5-Dr** In hot magenta, 27,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,995**
10 **VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 CDTi 'Design' Auto** In met grey, 68,000 miles, 7 seater **£6,795**
10 **CITROEN C3 1.6 Exclusive Auto 5-Dr** In met grey, 23,000 miles, superb example **£6,495**
61 **NISSAN Micra 1.2 Acenta 5-Dr** In silver, 14,000 miles, with sat-nav **£6,495**
60 **FORD Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr** In silver, 63,000 miles, diesel with £20 road tax **£6,495**
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12 **TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVTi 'ICE' 5-Dr** In met green, 20,000 miles, 1 owner **£5,995**
12 **SKODA Fabia 1.4 SE 5-Dr** In white with a/c etc, 1 owner **£5,995**
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07 **VAUXHALL Vectra 1.8 Exclusive Estate** In met blue, 80,000 miles **£2,995**
56 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life Automatic 5-Dr.** In silver, 86,000 miles **£2,995**
05 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 5-Dr** In met blue, with leather trim, 46,000 miles **£2,995**
55 **CITROEN C2 Design 1.4** In black, 46,000 miles, 2 owners **£2,695**
05 **RENAULT Megane 1.9 Diesel Dynamique Convertable** In black, low mileage **£3,495**
07 **FIAT Bravo 1.4 Dynamic 5-Dr** In met-grey, 54,000 miles, fantastic value **£3,295**
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£32,995

05 RENAULT Megane 1.9 Diesel Dynamique Convertable
In black. low mileage
£3,495

10 TOYOTA Aygo "Blue" 1.0 VVTi
5-Dr, in electric blue, 42,000 miles, £20 road tax
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OUR MAN BRIAN'S POINT-TO-POINT BLAST FROM THE PAST – 1990

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

OUR columnist Brian Lee, who has been writing about the Welsh horse racing scene for almost half-a-century, takes another look at some of his press clippings.

A report of mine which appeared in the now sadly long defunct *The Sporting Life*, under the heading 'Banned Bowles Goes To Ireland', on June 4, 1990, read: "Warned off Welsh trainer John Bowles is leaving Crickhowell to live in Ireland. Bowles, 46, failed in an Appeal Court bid last year to clear his name for his part in a ringer scandal 10 years ago. He said: 'I am going to live in a little place called Dooleek.'

"The former amateur rider added: "I am fed up with not being able to share in my son Lee's success and not being able to take part in the sport I love."

"This season Lee Bowles has trained 11 point-to-point winners and on Saturday he received the Belstaff Point-To-Point Owners' Association Award, which he won with *The Screamin Demon*. He is also the owner trainer of Wales' leading point-to-pointer *Katesville*.

"Last season, John Bowles, who had been fined £500 for attending Cheltenham and point-to-points the previous year, defied a Jockey Club ban by attending point-to-point meetings. But this season he decided to stay away so that his son, as he put it, 'would not be hounded.'

"Bowles lost his trainers' licence in 1980 and was declared a disqualified person for 20 years after a jury found that in 1978 he had switched his 10-year-old *In The Money* with *Cobbler's March*, a winner of six races, in a selling hurdle at Newton Abbot's Bank Holiday Monday meeting.

"Bowles said he would only return home from time to time to take care of his business interests."

Bowles died in Ireland last year, but his remains were returned to Crickhowell for burial. I remember on one occasion at the Talybont Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases, when Bowles had been banned from attending meetings, I walked into the sponsors' tent only to find him sitting at a table drink in hand and holding court with some of the officials. Seeing me, he shouted out: "Brian, you wrote some terrible things about me in the paper."

Sadly, as a result of a race riding accident, Andrew James is wheelchair-bound but he is always in good spirits and delights in taking the mick out of me every time he sees me on the racecourse.

Under the heading "Farrier James Rides His 50th Winner" alongside a handsome head and shoulder picture of him, I informed readers of a local paper: "Abergavenny farrier Andrew James, 31, chalked-up his 50th winner when winning the Charlie Knipe Hunter Chase at Hereford races last Saturday. on Harold Morris's *Dashalong*. James, who has ridden 48 winners between-the-flags, was landing his second under Rules."

James said: "Dashalong hit the first fence very hard and made the birch fly in all directions, but he's a clever jumper and we were able to make nearly all the running."

Dashalong won by three lengths from John Edwards' *Wally Wrekin* who put in a strong challenge five fences from home. James can be forgiven if he had cause to feel some slight embarrassment in beating Mr Edwards' horse into second place. For it was James who, in his role as farrier, shod *Wally Wrekin* before the race.'

Welsh point-to-pointer *Timber Tool*, owned by Bill Evans and his wife Mary, the former Mrs Rhys Williams of Llancarfan who rode successfully in point-to-points herself, came in for some stick in *The Sporting Life Point-To-Point Annual* and it made me see red.

So under the heading 'Pot Hunting *Timber Tool*' I wrote: "In his article on the 10 best point-to-pointers of last season, Jonathan Neesom writes: "*Timber Tool* is the first winner of the Daily Telegraph Cup, the new sponsors of the trophy for the horse who wins the most point-to-points in a season. It is a fact that horses who aim for this title inevitably do their share of 'pot hunting', and *Timber Tool*, in truth, beat little in seven of his 11 wins (including a walk-over)."

I wrote: "It is grossly unfair of Mr Neesom to suggest that *Timber Tool*'s connections were, as he puts it, 'pot hunting'. *Timber Tool* took on all comers and set a record of sorts by winning every men's open race that took place during the season in the west Wales area. Furthermore, I recall Mrs Evans, wife of the owner Bill Evans, telling me that they didn't want to win the Daily Telegraph Trophy by a walk-over and that is why they made their long trip to Devon at the end of the season when the championship trophy had already been won, so to speak.

"In the event, *Timber Tool* had 11 wins (including that walk-over) to the West Country's *Gerry Doyle*'s nine wins".

To be fair to Mr Neesom, he did have some nice things to say about *Timber Tool*. For instance: "However, the manner of his racing does him credit. On nine of his 10 wins he recorded the fastest time of the meeting, blazing a trail from flag fall and defying the opposition to stay with him."

My good friend Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn earned the wrath of officials at the Tredegar Farmers meeting and under the heading 'Stewards Summon Jockey' I wrote: "Reigning Welsh champion John Llewellyn was called before the stewards for excessive use of the whip at the Tredegar Farmers Hunt Point-To-Point after winning the men's open race on the Tredegar mare, *Miss Daffodil*. He was given a warning and the incident has been reported to the Jockey Club. *Miss Daffodil*, owned by Mark Dent, won by three quarters of a length from *Lord Charles* after the pair had raced neck and neck along the run-in."

I also reported that Tim Jones had recaptured his Welsh riders' championship title and that "he has ridden 20 winners this season, including two under rules".

Tim won the members' race on *Tudor Girl* and the maiden on *Goodbye Roscoe*. I also reported that *Answer To Prayer*, owned by Pontypridd bookmaker Tony Jeffries and ridden by the Vale's Gavin Hughes, aged 18, won the adjacent hunts' race.

Gavin was riding his first winner and it was at this meeting that Bridgend's Paul Hamer chalked-up his 97th winner when Len Harkins's *West Palm* beat sole rival *Little Herbert* in the restricted.

Tim Rooney had good cause to remember the 1990 season as "The likeable 34-year-old farrier had a fall from *Gunmetal Boy* at the Ystrad which put him out for the season. Tim, who with 17 wins behind him was on course to take John Llewellyn's Welsh record of 20 in a season. He was also challenging Philip Scholfield for the national title. Tim broke two bones in his right foot."

Under the heading 'Brilliant Evan Takes Honours', this is what I had to say about present day National Hunt trainer, Llancarfan's Evan Williams: "Nineteen-year-old Evan Williams earned the highest praise when he landed the Point-To-Point Owners' Association race on *Little Herbert* at the Gelligaer Farmers' Hunt Steeplechases. Despite losing his irons and reins when over-jumping at the last fence alongside *Musical Shadow*, Evan, from the Vale, somehow got back into the race and, in an exciting finish managed to get the former show-jumper back into the race and won by a neck. The Vale's Kevin Cousins scored a shock in the maiden when winning on 20-1 shot *Crown Royale* and John Llewellyn rode his 15th winner of the season when *Timber Tool* won the men's open.

I also reported that: "*Timber Tool* failed to make it 10 wins in a row when beaten by *Katesville* at the Llangeinor held at St Mary's Hill, near Bridgend. Ridden by usual pilot Tim Rooney, *Timber Tool* set a relentless gallop which soon had the field of nine runners – apart from *Katesville* – trailing in his wake.

"At one stage, around four fences from home, it looked as though *Timber Tool* was going to get clear of Katesville. However, *Katesville's* rider Tim Jones, conjured up a good run out of the nine-year-old and taking the lead two fences from home, went on to score by two lengths."

You can e-mail your horse racing stories/ pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or contact him on 02920736438.

Pupils' black belts joy

VALE-based JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness celebrated two more students achieving their Tae Kwon Do black belts, at the recent examinations held at the TAGB Headquarters in Bristol (Tae Kwon Do Assocation of GB).

Dedicated club members Menna Burmingham and Rian Thomas kept their focus and determination throughout the three hour examination which tested not only their ability to perform the 30 intricate movements of the black belt pattern but also step sparring, free sparring, floor work and breaking techniques.

In addition, they had to undertake a theory test to demonstrate their technical knowledge and command of Korean terminology.

In addition, Rhys Doel who achieved his black belt 1st Dan last year, undertook his first star grading and passed with flying colours.

Black belts who are under 16 years of age have to wait twice as long as adults between their Dan gradings so the star gradings are a way for juniors to continue to maintain high standards and perfect new skills during this waiting period.

There are three star gradings to achieve with each becoming more difficult than the last.

The terrific trio have been students at JSTKD from a young age and now assist the most junior students in the Ninja Kids classes (3-5 years) as well as adult beginners in the main training sessions.

JSTKD welcomes students of all ages and abilities with full details at www.jstkd.co.uk.

VW

Basketballers in action

THE Basketball Wales girls under-16 and under-18 teams are heading to the European Championships in July to represent their country.

These talented and ambitious girls spent Sunday, May 10, in Sainburys in Pontypriddd bag packing to raise funds for their trip.

The girls collected an incredible £734 thanks to the generosity and support of the people of Pontypridd. A special thank you to the smallest helpers, Eloise and Lili, who worked tirelessly all day to support the teams and to Sainsburys for hosting the fundraiser.

The under-16 Basketball Wales team include local girls Beth Edwards from Llandow and Emily Stradling from Porthcawl.

The teams are desperately in need of further funding to follow their dreams: if anyone would like to offer support, please contact Basketball Wales for information.

LM

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for May 5:

1st Celia & Huw Thomas 60.00%; 2nd Kay Dyer & Irene Thomas 58.00%; 3rd Reg Dyer & Ken Hannah 57.00%; Reg Dyer and Ken Hannah won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively beginners or improvers/new starters would be welcome on a Friday at 9.45am at the above address - please note there will be no Friday session on May 22.

DR

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The VIFC cap off fine season with a gr-eight performance!

Treble winners put Rhoose to the sword

WHAT a way to round off an incredible season.

One year ago VI lost out to Rhoose in the league and cup - well, 12 months later and VIFC have won the lot this season and finished the season off with a resounding 8-0 derby day victory.

The treble winners turned on the style to rout Rovers with goals from Jordan Mortimore, Leigh Lewis, Aaron Rogers, Rob West, Nicky Cox, Sean Flynn and a stunner from Richie Humphreys.

Although it took VI a while to settle, Rovers looked the better side for the opening 20 minutes as VI seemed to go through the motions, while Rhoose needed the points to ensure third place. But then VI woke up.

Mortimore and Goodwin saw efforts well saved after both combined with Lewis as VI built momentum. Then came the breakthrough on the half hour. Reece Lewis drilled a low through ball for Mortimore to latch on to, the skipper calmly slipping the ball under the advancing keeper to open the scoring, Mortimore notching his 64th goal in 34 games, a fantastic season for the VI captain and talisman.

VIFC were now at races and playing some neat football. They doubled their lead just before the break when Goodwin crossed for Leigh Lewis to fire the ball in at the far post.

Halftime saw the return of Sean Flynn to the team, and he didn't waste any time picking up where he left off. Flynn picked up the ball on the right and drove into the box, he pulled the ball back for Rogers to sidefoot home.

Humphreys was now up front and he was getting himself into the right positions but saw a couple of efforts well saved or ruled to be offside, much to his frustration.

After one such chance, VI had a corner, and a shove from a Rovers defender saw a penalty awarded. In a show of great team spirt the players waved forward the only player on the pitch not to have scored this season, keeper Rob West.

West was between the sticks after injury ruled out regular number one Paul Lucas. West, always ready to step in when needed, expertly dispatched the spot kick.

VI were full of confidence now and the football was free-flowing. Reece Lewis' switch from left to right saw Flynn burst into the box, round the keeper and be brought down for another penalty.

Flynn took the spot kick but saw it well saved, however he managed to beat Humphreys to the rebound to make it five.

It wasn't long before yet another penalty award. Some fine exchanges of passing played in Rogers and he twisted and turned in the area and was brought down by a last-ditch tackle. Now Barry Cup final hero Nicky Cox stepped up from the back and drilled home from 12 yards.

Tony Charles then picked up the ball after a one-two and he played in Flynn who rounded the keeper to fire home, and VI were in seven heaven.

They say save the best until last and VI certainly did that with the final goal. Dean Cleave picked up the ball on the right and crossed toward Richie Humphreys. The defender come striker connected with a sweet volley that flew like a missile into the top corner. It was conceded that Humphreys need not be concerned about scoring again, as he'll never score one better than that - quite the goal!

Team: R.West, S.Thomas, D.Garrison, R.Lewis. L.Lewis, D.Cleave, C.Goodwin, J.Laing, R.Humphreys, A.Rogers. Substitutes: N.Cox, S.Flynn, T.Charles.

A brilliant performance to round off an excellent season. VI finish the season on 69 points, 13 ahead of second placed Wenvoe, scoring 125 goals in the process while conceding only 31. Unfortunately for Rovers, Cogan Coronation got the win needed to pip them to third.

A history making season for VIFC - a treble won, the league title, supporters' cup and Barry cup. A wonderful achievement the players can be very proud of, but this is just the beginning.

This achievement was helped made possible by our sponsors Owens Motor Services, Llandow. Higgsy Site Services, Barry and The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan. **HD**

News from Cowbridge bowling club

ALTHOUGH the ladies lost both of their matches this week on grass, there were some reward with wins on some rinks.

In the Cowbridge Shield match played in the wind and driving rain Cowbridge lost to Porthcawl ladies 34-62.

Rink scores: Shirley Dunsworth, Sylvia Hole, Sue Flower and Joy Woolford (skip) 9-15; Dorothy Pritchard,Carol Davies, Joan Bradley and Pat Holdsworth (skip) 9-15; Helena Snelling, Diane Lloyd, Jan Lewis and Kay Edwards (skip) 16-12.

In the first league game of the season Cowbridge lost 39-62 to Penarth.

Rink scores: Lynda Wilson, Diane Lloyd, Sylvia Hole and Sue Flower (skip) 17-16; Diane Purnell, Phyllis Price, Helena Snelling and Joan Bradley (skip) 16-18; Janet Morton, Pat Davey, Joy Woolford and Shirley Wilkinson (skip) 6-28.

The men were also at Penarth for their midweek Munro game, losing overall 63-81, but did pick up points with a win on one rink.

Rink scores: Gerry Lloyd, Brian Williams, Guy Morton, Norman Wilkinson (skip) 15-25; Terry Dunsworth, John Collin, Brian Williams, Dennis Snelling (skip) 18-19; Colin Wilson, Len Taylor, Brian Kent, Bob Penn (skip) 17-13; Jim Hewlett, Rob Lewis, Clive Pritchard, Alan Wallace (skip) 13-24.

For their Saturday game it was away again this time to Barry Plastics in the Carruthers Shield competition. Cowbridge did well to win on two rinks but lost overall 71-90.

Rink scores: Charles Sanders, John Collin, John Trott and Brian Kent (skip) 11-24; Ron Frayling, Len Taylor, Clive Pritchard, Roger Barwick (skip) 25-18; Gerry Lloyd, Rob Lewis, Michael Bradley and Bob Penn (skip) 10-25; Mansel Davey, Ron Woolford, Guy Morton and Brian Williams (skip) 25-23.

Finally we have a special event to celebrate our first 20 years as a club. This will take place on Saturday, May 23 at the club in the form of a mixed match involving most of the playing members - we will then party! **MB**

COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

ON Tuesday, May 5, the Edmondes B won the GWC, defeating Llanharry 3-1 in the final.

The Edmondes B reach the final by defeating the Edmondes C 2-1, while Llanharry defeated the Edmondes A 2-0. All matches were played at the Hare and Hounds.

The previous week, Tuesday, April 28, the finalists for the men's doubles and the ladies doubles were determined. In the matches played at the Farmers Arms the two sucessful mens pairs were Wayne Morgan and Steve Sylvester from the Highwayman Inn and Lee Davies and Morgan John from Llanharry.

In the matches played at the Edmondes Arms the two sucessful ladies pairs were Kate Thomas and Joan Smith from the Farmers Arms and Pam Adams and Maureen Fleming also from the Farmers Arms.

Final league standings after 21 matches, are: Llanharry (152 points), Edmondes B (117), Highwayman Inn (116), Edmondes A (103), Hare and Hounds (85), Farmer's Arms (74), Edmondes C (70) and Old Post Ladies (37).

On Tuesday May 19, the Captain's Cup will be played at the Edmondes Arms.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul a t cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk. **PJT**

BAD WEEK FOR BOWLERS

ON Wednesday, Llantwit Major mens bowlers were the hosts to Windsor (Penarth), a strong side in the Munro Cup.

Llantwit were winning overall by two shots going into the final end when they conceded eight shots to lose by six shots, 55-61.

Llantwit travelled to Gilfach Goch on Saturday for their second match of the Carruthers Cup; facing possibly the strongest team they will meet this season, Llantwit performed well losing on only one rink to lose 83-71.

Graham Jones' rink were the star rink - after losing the first five ends to be six shots in arrears, Llantwit then found the green to their liking, winning the next 10 ends to go 12 shots up, before suffering a small setback on the 16th end when they conceded six shots, but Llantwit maintained their lead to win by six shots. **NY**

Comfortable win for the Cowbridge XI

COWBRIDGE CC's 1st XI defeated visitors Merthyr by nine wickets on Saturday.

The valleys side were all out for 152 in the 50th over and the Cowbridge batsmen never looked in danger as they strolled to victory.

With the ball it was past and present captains Tom Merilaht (4-30) and Neil Brand (4-29) who did the damage. Tom's good day got even better as he stroked a cultured 64 not out, putting on 103 with Mike Lloyd who made a typically aggressive 57. Neil Brand made a quickfire 31 and Cowbridge were home.

In the under-15s, during the week an exciting fixture against Lisvane took place with the match going to the final over with darkness falling.

Cowbridge posted the seemingly meagre total of 67 for 9 with captain Sam Russell top scoring with 16.

Good pressure from from Matthew Pursey (3 for 18) and Elis Murphy (2 for 10) made Lisvane work hard for every run.

Sadly the total proved to be just a little shy of what might have won the game for Cowbridge and Lisvane achieved the total with a couple of balls remaining, seven down. A great game and a greatly improved performance from the lads. **JB**